

NEXUS

NEW TIMES MAGAZINE

Volume 7, Number 5 AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2000

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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Editorial

It is amazing to discover the diverse range of readers that NEXUS attracts: Hollywood superstars; a sultan; a bishop or two; politicians from more countries than I care to name; and a huge number of mainstream journalists. I have even been "reliably" informed that NEXUS is read by several alien races! In other words, you are in good company!

It is with sadness and regret that we publish some of the growing number of testimonies exposing the alleged fraud of Sai Baba. Now, this may not be of interest to all our readers, but I do know that I will be on the receiving end of some very angry calls and e-mails about this. For many years I moved in circles dealing with spirituality. During those years, I received regular reports from many, many people about one "spiritual teacher" in particular: Sai Baba. I know of many people who have experienced their own "miracles" involving Sai Baba, and I know many people who have regularly visited the ashram in India.

You can imagine my reaction when I was told that Sai Baba was a fraud and a paedophile. I simply dismissed the allegations as a mainstream media attack on an unexplained phenomenon. I subsequently received some written testimonies from former devotees, which demonstrate that all is not so well with Sai Baba. I started investigating these reports, thinking that a few phone calls would reveal a beat-up or smear campaign. I could not have been more wrong. Phone call after phone call revealed a systematic pattern of sexual abuse, eyewitnessed faking of "materialisations" (for which Sai Baba is most famous), and more. I have also learned that Sai Baba knows nothing of most of the miracles involving himself in other countries, leading me to suspect that the power of belief from a true believer is what has been working the miracles—not Sai Baba. There will be those amongst you who will wish to challenge aspects of the accounts published in this issue. Please do not even think of contacting me until you have first read these and the growing number of testimonies now available on the Internet.

I would also like to use this editorial to report that our annual NEXUS Conference, held in Sydney in May, was a great success. This year's event saw the introduction of a team of young Internet security specialists. As well as giving a very informative presentation about Big Brother & the Internet, they set up a booth and were able to demonstrate and educate all interested about privacy and the Internet. Everything went well until the last half of the last day, when I learned that one of our speakers, David Morehouse, was not able to come as arranged (he had just decided to go into politics!). As a result, I filled the gap with a presentation all about myself and the history of NEXUS. Videos of all presentations are now available; see Reviews this issue.

One of our guest speakers this year was John Anthony West, described by many as a "renegade archaeologist". As many readers know, John has been at the forefront of the controversy over the dating of the Sphinx, and continues this research to this day. John gave a second, longer presentation on one of the evenings following our weekend conference. He showed a side of ancient Egypt that immediately captured my desire to go visit. To cut a long story short: NEXUS, John Anthony West and David Hatcher Childress of Adventures Unlimited Press/World Explorers Club will all be going to Egypt in March 2001, and are looking for about 30 other like-minded people to fill up the trip. If this sounds like you, either contact us for a brochure or visit John's website at <http://members.aol.com/jawsphinx> for more complete information.

In our April–May 1999 issue, we ran an extract from the intriguing WingMakers website. To say this extract caused excitement/controversy would be an understatement. We received letters from people saying that they could confirm various aspects, and others "proving" it was a hoax, etc. Well, there has been some "movement" going on with regard to the WingMakers, as you will see in the updates in our Twilight Zone section.

My editorial last issue attracted a lot more mail than usual. It would appear that I am certainly not alone in contemplating such outrageous ideas. I covered this subject also during my impromptu NEXUS Conference talk (available on video).

Meanwhile, I leave you with a memorable quote: "Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them to become what they are capable of being." (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 1749–1832)

Duncan

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Letters to the Editor ...

NZ Stonehenge Conspiracy

Dear Sir: Stone structures have been found in a forest near Dargaville on the western coast at the top end of the North Island of New Zealand.

According to a report from a surveyor who has visited the site, the structures are laid out in the same fashion as at Stonehenge.

One would think that such a find would result in a storm of publicity, photographs and speculation about early inhabitants—but, instead, all details have been withheld, no photographs released, no TV coverage permitted, the official government investigation of the site suppressed and, worst of all, publication of a book detailing what was found has been officially forbidden until the year 2060.

It is my opinion that this cover-up issues from "indigenous" Maori land claims to which vast areas of both islands are subject because of a document, the Treaty of Waitangi, written over 150 years ago.

There are *no* full-blooded Maoris left in New Zealand, but government departments, educational establishments and politics are riddled with Maori-claims sympathisers—presumably some of whom genuinely consider themselves Maori, and non-Maoris who have some type of racial guilt, as is happening now in Australia.

The main reason that I left NZ to settle in this country was my complete disgust at the Orwellian rewriting of history that has occurred over there to appease "politically correct" theoreticians who would have people believe that the Maoris were a peaceable, spiritual race who were caring guardians of the land (sound familiar?).

In reality, the original Maori invaders were individual tribes who killed off the existing inhabitants who, according to a very informed researcher, were a Polynesian race (Moriors) and also a *blue-eyed, fair-haired, white-skinned race who had the ability to navigate by the stars* (this is definitely not taught in schools).

Could the latter race have been the source of the mysterious stones?

A. M. Morgan, Queensland, Australia

Brazilian Miracle Man Guide

To NEXUS readers: Due to a fortunate editorial decision, I learned of a spiritual healing house in Brazil when NEXUS published an article on João Teixeira de Faria (João de Deus), excerpted from Robert Pellegrino-Estrich's book, *The Miracle Man* [see 5/02].

I managed to travel to the Casa de Dom Inácio in Brazil, where I was promptly healed of one malady and promised a cure for another after a course of treatment. It was daunting to execute a trip to a remote place where little English was spoken!

Accordingly, three of us have assembled all the information needed to facilitate a visit there, and posted "A Guide for Visitors to the Casa de Dom Inácio" on the Internet at <http://www.the-standingstones.com/library/factual/casa/casaindex.html>. For your convenience, we have also printed the information in booklet form. You may obtain a copy (post paid) by sending US\$2 for USA addresses, or US\$4 for air-mail post paid to other countries.

Kindly, J. D. Rabbit, 1577 Chase Brook Rd, Montpelier, Vermont, USA, jdr@together.net

Beyond the Credibility Gap

Dear Duncan: Thank you for your informative magazine. I have been purchasing it now for some time, since vol. 2, no. 1.

Sometimes I'll buy two if there is an article that is worth passing on. I've learnt to do this as I've lost one or two via lending them out and forgetting to whom—which can be a bit of a bugger at times, especially when I'm sprouting on about a particular story that you've produced and I then cannot produce the offending piece, or re-reading earlier volumes that may have tipped an interest at some time.

Mind you, I am inclined to have copious amounts of NaCl handy for some of the articles that are presented, but on the whole a very enlightening magazine that I read in a short time, then have to wait a month for the next issue.

I can only imagine you must have one amazing library by now. I was just looking at the back issues index and realised the diversity of the subjects.

If the sky does fall, I'm sure I'd

be the last to know. But Duncan, after reading the "Tragedy and Hype" article [7/03] and thinking about a friend's family problems that may have developed (two of three children, boy and girl, over a 20-year period, in hindsight) from soy consumption given to their children in good faith, I find that the magazine is worth buying at times.

My only problem is the credibility gap and derision that my friends give me when I mention an article from NEXUS for a discussion or comment—a bit "ha, ha" at times—and some of them do get shot down in flames of scrutiny and common sense, which is probably not a bad thing anyway. We must keep an open eye and mind, I suppose.

Duncan, could you or a staff member please fax or send a copy of the endnotes for "Tragedy and Hype" so I can add it for photocopy distribution to stop the hecklers? Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Noel Ervin, Tasmania, Australia

Other-Dimensional Beings

Dear Duncan: I was stirred, not to mention shaken, by your editorial in the June–July issue (7/04) regarding the forces of the "elite" and their alleged involvement with "other-dimensional beings" who feed off our energy.

I haven't yet read *The Thread of Infinity*, but the concept is aligned with that of another description revealed by don Juan in Carlos Castaneda's posthumous book, *The Active Side of Infinity* (p. 218 onwards), where he talks of predators or inorganic beings who "came out of the depths of the cosmos" and who control us, feeding off our energy.

I have read all of Castaneda's books and, while I try to keep an open mind about his propositions, the exercises he gives for saving energy and becoming self-aware have certainly enriched my life for the better, and perhaps ultimately could help others from being "eaten"?!

I also witnessed my first and only clear UFO sighting with friends on a sunny day in the park after rolling on the ground to absorb energy, as recommended by Castaneda. Although bewildered, I had an inexplicable sense of communication with the

craft and felt I had nothing to fear.

If we are feeding these "bad-guy" entities, perhaps it is our wake-up call to attend to the complacency in our own lives. Stop giving them our tasty negativity on a plate and feed them some love instead! Starve the elite's companies of some of their profit by being a conscientious and ecological consumer. There's always a way to fight back, even if it's not an easy one, by going beyond our individual egos. The scary thing, of course, as you already pointed out, is: if they do exist, they would merely be doing to us what we've systematically done to others.

While on the subject, can I request an article on the enigmatic but mysterious author Castaneda himself? I've heard various fascinating things about his mysterious life and death, but would love to get some real facts.

Keep up the great work. It's given me faith that there are many others out there searching for the truth with an open mind!

Sincerely, Xiola, Liverpool, UK, xiola@lineone.net

Presidents' Access to Secrets

Dear Editor: James Jesus Angleton is truly an enigma. The article "The CIA, UFOs, MJ-12, JFK & James Jesus Angleton" [7/04] really placed the spotlight on this man. His MJ-12 objective is cut and dried, and even JFK couldn't get the truth out of this man. Amazing! It seems like some Presidents receive an open-door invitation to the secrets of MJ-12, while other Presidents like JFK remain in the dark.

Truman is one of the Presidents who wasn't left in the dark, as he authorised the sinister activities of the NSA. During my days with Army Intelligence, I was told that Truman, Eisenhower, Nixon, Reagan, Bush were aware of the activities of MJ-12, while Presidents like Carter, JFK, Johnson, Ford were left in the dark. Most likely Clinton is being left in the dark, too.

If the truth is out there, NEXUS will find that truth. Vol. 7 no. 4 was most insightful.

Sincerely yours, Paul Dale Roberts, California, USA, Silhouet9@aol.com

... more Letters to the Editor

NB: Please keep letters to approx. 200 to 250 words in length. Ed.

Adverse Effects of Vaccines

Dear Duncan: A few years ago I read information on the hazards of vaccines. At that time I suspected that as a child I had almost died from a vaccine.

My mother had taken me to the paediatrician a week before my first birthday (April 16, 1968) for my first-year check-up and for the "required" vaccine for a one-year-old. My mother was told I was in perfect health and I was given the measles vaccine (live attenuated without ISG) Within 24 hours, I was hospitalised and put on IV. I was vomiting and had diarrhoea with a high fever and life-threatening dehydration. I nearly died.

I just read your deBriefings item entitled "MMR Vaccine Link to Autism Now Clearer" [7/04]. Perhaps some people think people like myself are paranoid about the medical establishment and drugs, but I'd rather be safe and alive than sorry and dead.

I am so grateful for your magazine. At least I can find the truth now, and answers.

Misha, misha1313@netzero.net

Understanding "Evil" Entities

Dear Editor: I cannot say that I have read *The Thread of Infinity* or anything by Robert Monroe [editorial, review 7/04]. But I, too, have encountered "beings" that survive off human energy. I was so moved by this that in 1996 I wrote *Afterworld: When Ghosts Disappear*.

Yes, there are beings that influence us humans to good or evil, but the agenda is not ultimately to drive us one way or the other; it is merely an act of survival on their part. They do not wish for us to wipe ourselves out (or their food disappears) but to make us more focused so that it is easier to feed off us. Focusing individuals to evil forces strong emotions and makes it easier for them to feed.

Whereas it is generally harder to influence us to good (human nature being what it is), we tend to think of these beings as being evil, when in fact they are neither. They just are, and feed off us. We do not say that lions are evil because they kill to eat; they just do it to survive. Humans are unique in the good/evil game on this planet.

People can be shocked by these

statements if they want. But truth and knowledge are our best weapons to understanding the universe we live in—not fear and speculation.

Claude Limberger,
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada,
pug@interlog.com

Technology of Surveillance

Dear Editor: Back in the late 1980s when I was doing some work for the government, I began reading 'zines simply because, at least within that rather strange milieu, there were occasional reports that I knew from my own experience had credibility. I had come to discover that the normal "media", as we know it, report nothing of substance whatever, unless it is so disguised that a "regular" citizen cannot possibly understand it.

Your magazine has become the cutting edge for reading about some of what I know to be true. Thank you.

Recently, you ran an article about PROMIS and *Echelon*, two of the US Government's data acquisition and interdiction programs. I say "programs" for lack of a better descriptive word. *Echelon*, as you already know, is simply a data acquisition (with process and interpretation) system using microwave receiving satellites, the data downlink located out of Nine Mile Hill near Albuquerque, and the processing centre in Los Alamos, from which the "interpreted" data is sent to Washington, DC.

Echelon is a shared project between three intelligence services and operated by the (so-called) University of California. It was initiated, and survives, based upon FCC [US Federal Communications Commission] regulations which allow the interception of open-air transmissions (such as the microwaves used to handle almost all long-distance calls in the US), as opposed to the limited interception allowability of land lines. The interception of those transmissions of course requires a warrant; although that is a rubber-stamp for the federal authorities, the implementation is hardware- and manpower-intensive and expensive, and leaves a paper trail, however labyrinthian.

PROMIS was indeed set up and operated initially in Arkansas.

That this was Clinton's home state was merely coincidental. Vince Foster's real claim to fame was that PROMIS was selected to be tested and refined through the bank he was a manager in. It was, in fact, this very sensible and flexible relationship with the intelligence community, that allowed Vince to climb into the very uppermost ranks of the executive body of the US power structure. It did not kill him.

And although Vince did have a Swiss bank account (Volksbank, the branch on Bahnhofstrasse in Zürich), he did not have much of anything in it. Believe it or not, he simply liked having a Swiss bank account. He very much enjoyed being involved as a "secret agent" of the NSA. But he was not really a secret agent, for even Hillary Clinton was aware of his bifurcated loyalties. At that time, the Clintons actually felt so powerful that they did not care who was reporting to whom as long as they knew.

Vince's savings account still exists, by the way, as a closed account of Credit Suisse (they acquired the Volksbank some time back). It has money in it and therefore, until claimed, the account remains dormant but there. Arcane Swiss banking law.

The motivation that absolves the intelligence community of any taint (morally) regarding the open acquisition of word-designated data on most phone calls made in America is counter-terror and the protection of the US President against all threats, foreign and domestic. *Ergo*, you may correctly assume that one of the "big three" that is in control of *Echelon* data is the US Secret Service.

It is not commonly known just how much time, money and manpower are devoted to the "interdiction and surveillance" of all suspects that might be or become threats to the President of the United States. The normal rules of our legal system are suspended where any question of a violation in that area might occur; for example, the introduction of microfibre (thought to be non-systemic to the human body) into homes, neighbourhoods and cars.

This microfibre is almost impossible to see unless it is illuminated with a carbon dioxide laser. Using special, sensitive

lenses, illuminated fibre becomes "phosphorescent", and therefore anyone or anything with even a few fibres on or in it can be followed with dramatic ease or seen with a multitude of aerial surveillance equipment from above, including specially equipped satellites.

I have been reading about fibrous, descending vapour trails lately, and I wonder if they have not gone even further with this intrusive security substance and process. The fibre is actually just marginally viewable by the naked eye under perfect conditions (high humidity, twilight and still air). It appears, when seen, as the most delicate of cobwebs, but has so little substance that it quite literally cannot be felt by human touch.

It is PROMIS that is the real problem as we move into this new millennium. The power (and the money) that it has allowed to flow to a few is almost too overwhelming even to get anyone to understand, much less believe. Outside of the UFO phenomenon, there is no riskier information to deal with, by the way.

Cherubim [no contact details provided]
[Dear Cherubim: You raise some extremely interesting points, the microfibrils being particularly intriguing. I hope you don't mind my publishing your letter. More, please! Ed.]

Electrical Sensitivity Syndrome

Dear Duncan: Janusz Kozikowski (Letters, 7/04) describes his apparent ability to upset street lights. This sounds like a symptom of "electrical sensitivity syndrome", described by Prof. Kenneth Ring in his 1992 book, *The Omega Project: Near-Death Experiences, UFO Encounters, and Mind at Large* (William Morrow, New York, ISBN 0-688-10729-X).

Ring found that the ability to cause electrical devices to malfunction is just one of the psychophysical changes that may occur to people who have had NDEs, alien abductions or other anomalous experiences. The book is an excellent source of information on this subject.

Best wishes, Simon Harvey-Wilson, Perth, Western Australia, simonhw@webace.com.au

THE NEW WORLD AUDIT

Hot on the heels of the historic merger of the London and Frankfurt stock exchanges—and the immediate signal from the US high-tech Nasdaq market to want to join the "iX" alliance—comes news that a new system of international accounting standards is now a step closer.

At its meeting in Sydney on 17 May, the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) gave its support to a set of rules devised by the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), a London-based group of professional accountants from 104 countries.

The new global accounting language (comprising 30 rules in all) will assist transnational companies in cross-border equity and debt issues and facilitate access to capital markets.

Meantime, the so-called "progressive governance" summit of 14 centre-left government leaders, including six G7 nations, held in Berlin on 3–4 June, set out a new agenda for containing globalisation and resurrecting plans for strengthening world financial regulation. It was convened in response to the changes unleashed by fast-paced globalisation and the concerns these have triggered in their national electorates.

The meeting's communiqué said that



recent financial crises had underscored the need for proper financial regulation and that "market economies must be combined with social responsibility in order to create long-term growth, stability and full employment, to promote social justice and protect the environment".

US President Bill Clinton, who attended the meeting, described the communiqué as a "fair statement of the way we view the 21st-century world". (On the eve of the summit, he became the first US President to receive the prestigious Charlemagne Prize for his contribution to European

unity, though he also faced criticism from European allies about the proposed US national missile system.)

However, within days of the Berlin summit, the New York Stock Exchange announced it had invited a group of nine exchanges, including Australia and Hong Kong, to form a 24-hour global equity market (GEM) worth \$US20 trillion and representing 60 per cent of the world's shares. The move is designed to compete with the London/Frankfurt iX merger, the world's fourth-largest exchange by market capitalisation. It is seen as a key step towards full globalisation of financial markets but it could marginalise smaller countries like Australia even further.

The demand for global share trading is unclear, but the new arrangements for cross-border settlement of share transfers and common accounting standards are expected to facilitate the transition.

These new developments have done nothing to calm public disquiet over the rapid growth of global markets and power of transnational corporations. The new face of public resistance is French farmer José Bové (the so-called "Robin Hood of Roquefort"), who is on trial with nine others for trashing a newly constructed McDonald's restaurant in the town of Millau last August. He sees the fast-food giant as a symbol of much that is going wrong in the world, and that "it stands for industrially produced food—bad for traditional farmers and bad for your health".

Bové's critics claim his motivation is based on what French farmers stand to lose out of the 22% of multibillion-dollar agricultural subsidies provided by the European Union.

(Sources: Guardian Weekly, London, 11–17 May; Australian Financial Review, 18 & 19 May, 5 & 9 June; Sydney Morning Herald, 1 July 2000)

WORLD BANK PRIVATISES THIRD WORLD WATER RIGHTS

Several years ago, Ismail Serageldin, Vice-President of the World Bank, said that the wars of the 21st century will be about water. He was referring to the fact that the world is running out of fresh water sources at an alarming rate, and that conflict over what remains will be inevitable.

To respond to the crisis, the World Bank



has recently adopted a policy of water privatisation and full-cost water pricing. This policy is causing great distress in many Third World countries, which fear that their citizens will not be able to afford the cost of privatised water.

Two years ago, the World Bank (whose official attends Bolivian Government cabinet meetings as a full participant) refused to guarantee a US\$25-million loan to re-finance water services in Cochabamba, Bolivia's third-largest city, unless the government sold the public water system to the private sector and passed on the costs to consumers. Only one bid was considered, and the utility was turned over to a subsidiary of a conglomerate led by Bechtel—the giant engineering company implicated in the infamous Three Gorges Dam in China, which has caused the forced relocation of 1.3 million people.

In January 1999, before the company had even hung up its shingle, it announced the doubling of water prices. For most Bolivians, this meant that water would now cost more than food; for those on a minimum wage or unemployed, water bills suddenly accounted for close to half their monthly budgets.

To add insult to injury, the World Bank granted monopolies to private water concessionaires, announced its support for full-cost water pricing, pegged the cost of water to the US dollar, and declared that none of its loan could be used to subsidise the poor for water services. All water, even from community wells, required permits to access, and peasants and small farmers even had to buy permits to gather rainwater on their property.

This is a story unfolding in many parts of the world. Just as humanity is beginning to come to terms with the awesome dimensions of the looming fresh-water crisis, a handful of transnational water and food corporations, backed by the World Bank, are moving in on Third World countries and, in the name of human charity, commodifying their water for profit. These corporations openly dominated the UN/World Bank-sponsored World Water Forum in The Hague in March.

The privatisation of municipal water services has a terrible record that is well documented. Customer rates are doubled or tripled; corporate profits rise as much as 700 per cent; corruption and bribery are rampant; water quality standards drop, sometimes dramatically; overuse is

promoted to make money; and customers who can't pay are cut off. When privatisation hits the Third World, those who can't pay will die.

At least the Bolivia story has a happy ending (for now). By the hundreds of thousands, Bolivians marched to Cochabamba in an anti-government protest. On 10 April, they won: the Bolivian Government kicked Bechtel out of the country and revoked its water privatisation legislation.

Oscar Olivera, the Bolivian shoemaker who led the fight, had brought his message to a Washington rally during the recent IMF/World Bank meetings. He said that if water is privatised and commodified for profit, it will never reach the people who need it but will serve only to make a handful of water corporations very rich.

(Source: By Maude Barlow, Toronto Globe and Mail, Canada, 11 May 2000, website www.theglobeandmail.com)

GLOBAL CRACKDOWN ON OFFSHORE TAX HAVENS

A co-ordinated global attack upon tax havens emerged during June and July. The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is considering imposing economic sanctions against some 35 nations unless they move into line with higher-tax regimes in the rest of the world.

Anguilla, Antigua, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, the Cayman Islands, the Cook Islands, Dominica,

Gibraltar, Grenada, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Liberia, Liechtenstein, the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, Nauru, Panama, St Vincent, the Seychelles, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa are just some of the nations accused of distorting competition by attracting money from companies and individuals seeking to avoid high taxes in their own countries.

(Sources: Weekly Telegraph, 5-11 July, Guardian Weekly, London, 6-12 July 2000)

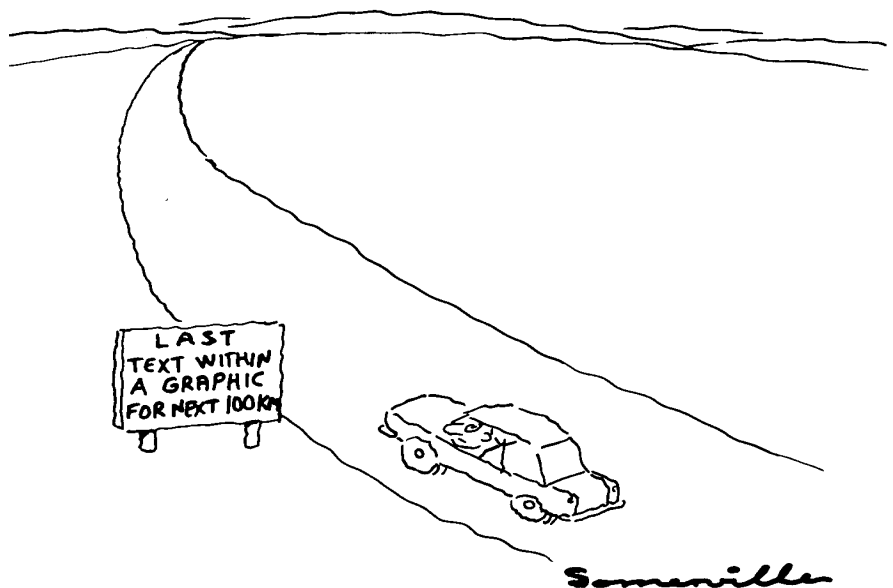
LAWSUITS CLAIM CYBERSPACE PRIVACY VIOLATIONS

Class action lawsuits have been filed against several major online companies, alleging that they secretly monitor file transfers and collect personal information for commercial purposes.

"Unbeknownst to [Netscape users]... defendants have been spying on their Internet activities," said one New Jersey-based website operator who has filed a class action lawsuit, charging that AOL/Netscape's Internet software violates electronic privacy law.

The complaint, filed on 30 June in the US District Court for the Southern District Court of New York by New Jersey-based website operator Chris Specht, states that the "SmartDownload" feature in the Netscape Communicator web browser secretly transmits file download information to Netscape and America Online (which acquired Netscape in 1998).

Four other class action lawsuits winding their way through the courts are alleging



that four major online companies are secretly collecting personal information from websurfers.

The Law News Network says the lawsuits against DoubleClick, Amazon.com, RealNetworks and Buy.com are the first of their kind.

The suits claim that the companies are secretly tracking Internet users' activities and collecting personal data such as e-mail and home addresses and phone numbers.

(Sources: www.cosmiverse.com/, 29 June 2000; and www.wired.com/news/politics/, 7 July 2000)

ANXIOUS POLICE REFUSE TO GIVE DNA SAMPLES

Thousands of UK police officers have refused to give DNA samples to a new Home Office database, amid concerns that the genetic fingerprints could be used against them in paternity suits.

Police officers are also said to be anxious that their samples could be used to check for drugs or to link them with unsolved crimes, but their big concern is that the Child Support Agency will be able to access the computer database in a bid to track down fathers who shirk their responsibilities.

The Home Office wants to collect DNA samples from 75,000 officers who might be expected to come into contact with evidence at crime scenes, so they can be eliminated as suspects. So far, it has received only 21,000 samples from volunteers.

The reluctance of some officers to comply makes a mockery of the expectations placed on members of the public who are routinely asked to volunteer for mass DNA screening to help police eliminate innocent people from their enquiries.

(Source: By David Taylor, The Express, London, 2 July 2000)

LIGHT AND OXYGEN DESTROY TERMINAL CANCERS

The first results of a light-activated treatment for some cancers, particularly of the skin, throat and mouth, may offer hope for otherwise terminal cases.

In the new photodynamic therapy, a cream is injected around a cancerous tumour and a light is beamed onto it. As it glows, a drug—Foscan temoporfin—releases oxygen that destroys the cancerous cells, thus minimising damage to healthy tissue.

The details of the medical breakthrough were announced at the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Oncologists in New Orleans.

Dr Barry Wenig, chief researcher for Scotia, the drug's manufacturer, presented the results of trials on 64 patients terminally ill with skin cancer. The patients were treated with the drug, and four days later the tumour was strongly illuminated with a red light.

"These patients were classed as incurable and the only other option was to refer them to hospices," Dr Wenig said.

An independent panel of experts judged that 58% of patients had extended their survival time; 25% had achieved a complete or partial reduction of their tumour; and in 16% of the cases, the tumour had been completely eliminated.

The drug is not yet licensed for use in the USA or Europe, as tests are still in progress. A two-year trial is currently underway in Leeds, UK.

(Source: By Helen Rumbelow, The Times, London, 30 May 2000, www.the-times.co.uk/news/)

UN SEEKS JURISDICTION TO SILENCE DRUGS DISSENT

In a high-profile New York press briefing in June, Pino Arlacchi, who fronts the UN International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), announced that the INCB would soon begin seeking "universal jurisdiction" to prosecute digital drug traffickers.

Currently, this select legal mechanism is employed only with respect to those who commit acts of genocide and crimes against humanity. However, the one-time Italian prosecutor asserts that this drastic control measure is needed to stem a medium he believes is becoming a veritable nexus for criminals wishing "to disseminate information about drugs".

Although this legal stratagem would severely undermine cherished notions of national self-determination, Arlacchi suggests that even websites which post materials critical of global anti-narcotic efforts could also be fair game.

"These views are spreading and we are now thinking about some instrument to at least stop the expansion of this flow of information," he warns.

Arlacchi's machinations represent the first step towards codifying recommendations set forth in the INCB's 1997 Annual Report. Published after California's controversial Medical Marijuana Initiative, the little-known document sternly chastises various member-nations for having the temerity to allow open discourse in regard to global anti-drug strategies.

(Source: From the Disinformation website, www.disinfo.com, 11 July 2000; research by Cletus Nelson, teevee@earthlink.net)

AUSTRALIA'S NEW MEDICATION DATABASE THREATENS PRIVACY

Australia's Medicare card will become a *de facto* identity card, and a national database containing personal health information will be created under a planned Federal Government initiative.

Privacy advocates and even the Australian Medical Association have reacted with alarm at the proposals, under which the Medicare number will be used as a unique patient identifier for a new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) entitlement checking system and for electronic medication records to be offered through pharmacies.

The proposal, outlined in the recent Federal Budget, would create a system similar to the Australia Card system that the



public resoundingly rejected in a stance which triggered the 1987 general election. That plan would have had all Australians issued with an ID card for taxation, health and welfare purposes and the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) administering a central database.

Both of the proposed new systems are to be operated by the HIC, which administers the PBS pharmacy network and the Medicare Benefits Scheme. From January 2001, doctors will be required to write a patient's Medicare number on prescriptions, and patients will need to show their cards to the pharmacist as proof of identity.

It's expected that the medication record system will be in place by July 2001, but Federal Health Minister Dr Michael Wooldridge has stressed that participation in the system would be voluntary for consumers, doctors and pharmacists. A Health Department spokesperson has commented that the system is intended to reduce medication misadventures in the community.

(Source: By Karen Dearne, Australian, 23 May 2000, www.australianIT.com.au)

CONCERN OVER BANNED DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER DRUG ADVERTS IN AUSTRALIA

What do Viagra, Relenza, Celebrex, Xenical and Fosamax have in common? They are all newish pharmaceutical drugs which are being pushed in the Australian media via thinly disguised, direct-to-consumer advertisements.

The practice of advertising drugs—and the diseases they are claimed to treat—directly to consumers is banned in Australia, but drug manufacturers are trying to overturn this rule and have set up a lobby group, the Patient-Industry forum, as part of a global push to get closer to those who would use their products.

The print and TV ads, many of which are styled and presented as community service announcements, are big on emotion and low in information content (by regulation), and point potential consumers to their doctors who have already been "educated" by the drug company representatives.

The Australian Consumers Association opposes such ads but wants information about medicines to be made more widely available, claiming that these consumer-directed ads don't provide sufficient details on the drugs or their adverse side-effects.

(Sources: Australian, 9 May; Financial Review, Sydney 10-12 June, 20 June 2000)

HOW THE CIA & NSA HELP AMERICAN FIRMS WIN CONTRACTS

Documents obtained by the *Independent on Sunday* reveal how the CIA and NSA (US National Security Agency) have immersed themselves in the new hot trade war. Targets have included UK and European firms. At stake are contracts worth billions of dollars.

For America's spies, an important tool has been the global eavesdropping system known by the code name *Echelon*, which has come to invoke the tag of Big Brother of the cyberspace age. *Echelon* is part of a British/American-run worldwide spy system that can "suck up" phone calls, faxes and e-mails sent by satellite. America's intelligence agencies have been able to intercept these vital private communications, often between foreign governments and European businesses, to help the US win major contracts.

Britain's role in *Echelon*, via its ultra-secret eavesdropping agency GCHQ, has put Tony Blair's government in the dock facing its European partners. European politicians meet on Wednesday in Strasbourg and Berlin to call for inquiries into electronic espionage by the US to beat competitors. These debates follow two years of controversy about *Echelon*, as its astonishing power has gradually been revealed.

But the real origin of the current row lies in the early 1990s, when US politicians and intelligence chiefs decided that the formidable but underemployed Cold War US intelligence apparatus should be redirected against its allies' economies. At stake was not just routine international trade, but new opportunities created by the demise of communism and fast-growing markets in countries that US trade officials dubbed "BEMs"—Big Emerging Markets such as China, Brazil and Indonesia.

Perhaps the most startling result of the new Clinton policy came in January 1994, when the then French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur flew to Riyadh to conclude a US\$6-billion deal for arms, airliners and maintenance, including sales of the European Airbus. He flew home empty-handed. The *Baltimore Sun* later reported that "from a commercial communications satellite, NSA lifted all the faxes and phone calls between the European consortium Airbus, the Saudi national airline and the Saudi government. The agency found that Airbus agents were offering bribes to a Saudi official. It passed the information to US officials pressing the bid of Boeing Co." Clinton's government intervened with the Saudis and the contract went to Boeing.

This is just one of hundreds of "success" stories openly boasted by the US Government's "Advocacy Center" up to the present day. They do not say where the CIA or NSA was decisive in winning a contract, but often brag of beating British, European or Japanese competitors.

Cases where the US "beat" British competitors include power generation, engineering and telecommunications contracts in the Philippines, Malawi, Peru, Tunisia and Lebanon. In India, the CIA tracked British competitive strategies in a competition to build a 700 MW power station near Bombay. In January 1995, the \$400-million contract was awarded to the US companies Enron, GE and Bechtel. Also in 1995, General Electric Power Systems won a \$120-million tender to build a plant in Tunisia. "They beat intense competition from French, German, Italian and British firms for the project," the Center boasts.

Documents and information obtained by the *Independent on Sunday* show that the critical question of whether US intelligence should systematically help business was resolved after the election of Clinton in 1993, when he launched a policy "to aggressively support US bidders in global competitions where advocacy is in the national interest".

Three SIGINT (signals intelligence) reports obtained by the *Independent on Sunday* are economic in nature. All the reports are classified "TOP SECRET UMBRA", indicating that highly-sensitive monitoring techniques were used to get the information.

The heart of the new, co-ordinated Clinton trade campaign is the Advocacy Center, run by the Trade Promotion Co-ordinating Committee within the Department of Commerce. Declassified minutes of the Trade Promotion Co-ordinating Committee meetings from 1994 show that the CIA's role in drumming up business for the US was not limited to looking for bribery or even lobbying by foreign governments. For a series of meetings dealing with Indonesia, 16 officials were circulated with information. Five of the officials were from the CIA; three of the five worked inside the Commerce Department itself, in a department called the Office of Executive Support, and the fifth, Robert Beamer, was from CIA headquarters.

In reality, the Office of Executive Support is a high-security office located inside the Commerce Department. It is staffed by CIA officials with top-secret security clearances and equipped with direct links from US intelligence agencies. Until recently, it was known (more revealingly) as the Office of Intelligence Liaison.

According to Loch K. Johnson, a staff member of the US Intelligence Reform Commission set up in 1993, officials at the departments of Commerce, Treasury and State pass information to US companies without revealing the intelligence source. "At Commerce, there's no code or book to consult to say when and what information can be passed to a US company," he said.

(Source: By Duncan Campbell and Paul Lashmar, *Independent on Sunday*, 3 July 2000, www.independent.co.uk/news/)

THE BILDERBERG 2000 CONFERENCE

Every year since 1954, the secretive Bilderberg Group, comprising elite powerbrokers from Europe and North America, has met to discuss, and influence, the changing global political, economic and social landscape.

The group of approximately 120 participants or attendees (they're not referred to as members) varies from year to year, and a 30-strong inner circle, the Bilderberg Steering Committee, allegedly gets together before the annual meeting and on one other occasion during the year.

As the media—with the exception of a few hand-picked representatives who are bound to secrecy—are not allowed entry to report on the annual meeting, speculation is always rife in the lead-up as to the meeting's actual location and what items are on the agenda. During and after the meeting, speculation continues as to the identity of the participants and the subjects discussed and marked for action.

The build-up to this year's Bilderberg 2000 meeting was no exception, its location a well-guarded secret until closer to the scheduled date, 1–3 June. For months beforehand it was thought by attendees and Bilderberg-watchers that it would take place in Austria or Switzerland, but it was actually held in Belgium at the Château du Lac Hotel in Genvel, near Brussels.

The following "press release" and list of participants was issued by the Bilderberg Group at lunchtime on Saturday 3 June, at the close of the conference. The list is by no means an accurate record of everyone who attended, as it is believed that participants or invited attendees may choose to have their names withheld. There are 98 names on this list. (Bill Clinton was officially in Berlin at the time. Did he make an unannounced visit to Brussels, even though he is not listed as a Bilderberg participant?)

Freelance photographer Tony Gosling and others staked out the scene and took fleeting snaps of attendees from a distance (see website, www.bilderberg.org/2000pics.htm).

Many of these people are not readily identifiable, and it's likely that the early arrivals are on the Steering Committee. (The hotel provided a canvas shield to hide the identity of arriving/departing guests.) These "mug shots" have now been posted on the Net for anyone in-the-know to put names to. The website is maintained by Grattan Healy, Adviser on Energy and Research with the Green/EFA Group in the European Parliament. (To see the "Wanted List", go to http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/grattan_healy/wanted.html.)

For more background on the Bilderberg Group, see Armen Victorian's article in NEXUS 3/01 (Dec 1995–Jan 1996 issue). For lists of Bilderberg participants since 1954, see Grattan Healy's website or refer to R. Gaylon Ross Sr's *Who's Who of the Elite* (2nd Revised Edition, January 2000, ISBN 0-9649888-0-1).

PRESS RELEASE BILDERBERG MEETINGS 3 June 2000

The 48th Bilderberg meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium, 1–3 June 2000. Among other subjects, the Conference discussed US Elections, Globalisation, New Economy, the Balkans, EU Enlargement, the European Far Right.

Approximately 100 participants from North America and Europe attended the discussions. The meeting was private in order to encourage frank and open discussion.

Bilderberg takes its name from the hotel in Holland where the first meeting took place in May 1954. That pioneering meeting grew out of the concern expressed by leading citizens on both sides of the Atlantic that Western Europe and North America were not working together as closely as they should on common

problems of critical importance. It was felt that regular, off-the-record discussions would help create a better understanding of the complex forces and major trends affecting Western nations in the difficult post-war period.

The Cold War has now ended. But in practically all respects there are more, not fewer, common problems—from trade to jobs, from monetary policy to investment, from ecological challenges to the task of promoting international security. It is hard to think of any major issue in either Europe or North America whose unilateral solution would not have repercussions for the other.

Thus the concept of a European–American forum has not been overtaken by time. The dialogue between these two regions is still—even increasingly—critical.

What is unique about Bilderberg as a forum is the broad cross-section of leading citizens that are assembled for nearly three days of informal and off-the-record discussion about topics of current concern, especially in the fields of foreign affairs and the international economy; the strong feeling among participants that, in view of the

differing attitudes and experiences of the Western nations, there remains a clear need to further develop an understanding in which these concerns can be accommodated; the privacy of the meetings, which has no purpose other than to allow participants to speak their minds openly and freely. In short, Bilderberg is a small, flexible, informal and off-the-record international forum in which different viewpoints can be expressed and mutual understanding enhanced.

Bilderberg's only activity is its annual conference. At the meetings, no resolutions are proposed, no votes taken and no policy statements issued. Since 1954, forty-seven conferences have been held. The names of the participants are made available to the press. Participants are chosen for their experience, their knowledge and their standing; all participants attend Bilderberg

The secretive Bilderberg Group, comprising elite powerbrokers from Europe and North America, has again met to discuss, and influence, the changing global political, economic and social landscape.

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in a private and not an official capacity. There are usually about 120 participants, of whom about two-thirds come from Europe and the balance from North America. About one-third are from government and politics, and two-thirds from finance, industry, labour, education, communications.

Participants have agreed not to give interviews to the press during the meeting. In contacts with the news media after the conference, it is an established rule that no attribution should be made to individual participants of what was discussed during the meeting.

There will be no press conference. A list of participants is appended.

BILDERBERG MEETINGS

Brussels, Belgium
1-3 June 2000

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

3 June 2000

Abbreviations

A: Austria; **B:** Belgium; **CH:** Switzerland; **CDN:** Canada; **D:** Germany; **DK:** Denmark; **E:** Spain; **F:** France; **FIN:** Finland; **GB:** Great Britain; **GR:** Greece; **INT:** International; **I:** Italy; **IRL:** Ireland; **KS:** Kosovo; **N:** Norway; **NL:** Netherlands; **P:** Portugal; **S:** Sweden; **TR:** Turkey; **USA:** United States of America

Honorary Chairman

B: Davignon, Etienne – Chairman, Société Générale de Belgique

Honorary Secretary-General

GB: Taylor, J. Martin – Chairman, W.H. Smith Group PLC, and

International Adviser, Goldman Sachs International

I: Agnelli, Giovanni – Honorary Chairman, Fiat SpA

I: Agnelli, Umberto – Chairman, IFIL

E: Aguirre y Gil de Biedma, Esperanza – President, the Spanish Senate

USA: Allaire, Paul – Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO, Xerox Corporation

I: Ambrosetti, Alfredo – Ambrosetti Group

DK: Andersen, Bodil Nyboe – Governor, Central Bank of Denmark

CDN: Asper, Israel – Chairman, CanWest Capital Group Inc.

INT: Avery, Graham – Chief Adviser for Enlargement, European Community

P: Balsemão, Francisco Pinto – Professor of Communication Science, New University, Lisbon, and Chairman, Impresa SGPS

S: Barnevik, Percy – Chairman, Investor AB

NL: Benschop, Dick – State Secretary for European Affairs

I: Bernabé, Franco – Special Representative of Italy for Reconstruction Initiatives in the Balkans

D: Betz, Hans-Georg – Visiting Professor, European Studies, Center for European Studies, Columbia and New York Universities

INT: Bildt, Carl – Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Balkans, United Nations

CDN: Black, Conrad – Chair, Telegraph Group Ltd

IRL: Bruton, John – Leader of Fine Gael (opposition party)

GB: Buchanan, Robin W.T. – Senior Partner, Bain & Co. Inc.

GB: Clarke, Kenneth – Member of Parliament (Conservative)

TR: Çolakoglu, Nuri – Chairman and CEO, NTV

F: Collomb, Bertrand – Chairman and CEO, Lafarge

D: Cromme, Gerhard – Chairman of the Executive Board, Thyssen Krupp AG

GR: David, George A. – Chairman, Hellenic Bottling Company SA

USA: Deutch, John M. – Institute Professor, MIT, and former Director, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

GR: Diamandouros, P. Nikiforos – National Ombudsman
USA: Dodd, Christopher J. – Senator (Democrat, Connecticut)

USA: Donilon, Thomas E. – Senior Vice-President, General Counsel and Secretary, FannieMae

USA: Dyson, Esther – Chairman, EDventure Holdings Inc.

INT: Fréchette, Louise – Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

I: Fresco, Paolo – Chairman, Fiat SpA

CDN: Frum, David – Columnist, *National Post* newspaper

P: Gouveia, Teresa Patrício – Member of Parliament (PSD)

USA: Graham, Donald E. – Publisher, *The Washington Post*

USA: Hagel, Chuck – Senator (Republican, Nebraska)

NL: Halberstadt, Victor – Professor of Economics, Leiden University, and former Honorary Secretary-General, Bilderberg Meetings

N: Hambro, Christian – Director-General, Research Council of Norway

A: Hampel, Erich – Chairman, Creditanstalt-Bankverein

USA: Hutchison, Kay Bailey – Senator (Republican, Texas)

B: Huyghebaert, Jan – Chairman, Almanij NV

B: Janssen, Daniel E. – Chairman, Solvay SA



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S: **Johansson, Leif** – President and CEO, Volvo AB
USA: **Johnson, James A.** – Chairman and CEO, Johnson Capital Partners
USA: **Jordan Jr, Vernon E.** – Managing Director, Lazard Frères & Co. LLC
TR: **Kayhan, Muharrem** – Vice-Chairman of the Board, Söktas, and former President, Tusiad
USA: **Kissinger, Henry A.** – Chairman, Kissinger Associates Inc.
D: **Kopper, Hilmar** – Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Deutsche Bank AG
USA: **Kravis, Henry R.** – Founding Partner, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.
USA: **Kravis, Marie-Josée** – Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute Inc.
INT: **Lamy, Pascal** – Commissioner, European Commission
F: **Lévy-Lang, André** – former Chairman, Paribas
B: **Lippens, Maurice** – Chairman, Fortis Bank
FIN: **Lipponen, Paavo** – Prime Minister
USA: **Mathews, Jessica T.** – President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
USA: **McDonough, William J.** – President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
F: **Montbrial, Thierry de** – Director, French Institute of International Relations
INT: **Moore, Mike** – Director-General, World Trade Organization
D: **Nass, Matthias** – Deputy Editor, *Die Zeit*
NL: **Queen Beatrix** – Her Majesty, the Queen of The Netherlands and of the House of Orange
FIN: **Ollila, Jorma** – Chairman of the Board and CEO, Nokia Corporation
INT: **Padoa-Schioppa, Tommaso** – Member of the Executive Board, European Central Bank
S: **Pagrotsky, Leif** – Minister of Trade
GR: **Papandreou, George A.** – Minister for Foreign Affairs
S: **Petersson, Lars-Eric** – President and CEO, Skandia
A: **Petritsch, Wolfgang** – The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and European Union Chief Negotiator at the Kosovo Peace Talks in Rambouillet and Paris
CH: **Pury, David de** – Chairman, de Pury Pictet Turretini & Co. Ltd
DK: **Rasmussen, Anders Fogh** – Chairman, Liberal Party
N: **Reiten, Eivind** – Executive Vice-President, Corporate Management, Norsk Hydro SA
USA: **Richardson, Bill** – Secretary of Energy
I: **Riotta, Gianni** – Deputy Editor, *La Stampa*
USA: **Rockefeller, David** – Chairman, Chase Manhattan Bank International Advisory Council
E: **Rodriguez Inciarte, Matías** – Executive Vice Chairman, BSCH
GB: **Roll, Eric** – Senior Adviser, UBS Warburg
I: **Ruggiero, Renato** – Vice-Chairman, Schroder Salomon Smith Barney, and Chairman, Schroder Salomon Smith Barney, Italy
A: **Scholten, Rudolf** – Member of the Board of Executive Directors, Österreichische Kontrollbank AG
B: **Schoutete de Tervarent, Philippe de** – former Permanent Representative of Belgium to the European Union
DK: **Seidenfaden, Tøger** – Editor-in-Chief, *Politiken*

INT: **Solana Madariaga, Javier** – Secretary-General, Council of the European Union
USA: **Soros, George** – Chairman, Soros Fund Management
USA: **Steinberg, James B.** – Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
F: **Strauss-Kahn, Dominique** – former Minister of Finance, and Professor, University of Paris
KS: **Surroi, Veton** – Publisher, *Koha Ditore*
IRL: **Sutherland, Peter D.** – Chairman, Goldman Sachs International, and Chairman, BP Amoco PLC
USA: **Tarullo, Daniel K.** – Visiting Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center
USA: **Thornton, John L.** – President and CEO, Goldman Sachs Group Inc.
I: **Tremonti, Giulio** – Member of the Finance Commission, Chamber of Deputies
F: **Trichet, Jean-Claude** – Governor, Banque de France
CH: **Vasella, Daniel L.** – Chairman and CEO, Novartis AG
NL: **Veer, Jeroen van der** – Group Managing Director, Royal Dutch Shell group of companies, and Designate President, Royal Dutch Petroleum Company

"...it is an established rule that no attribution should be made to individual participants of what was discussed during the meeting."

— Bilderberg Press Release

USA: **Vink, Lodewijk J.R. de** – Chairman, President and CEO, Warner-Lambert Company
A: **Vranitzky, Franz** – former Federal Chancellor
S: **Wallenberg, Jacob** – Chairman of the Board, Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken
GB: **Wolf, Martin** – Associate Editor/Economics Commentator, *The Financial Times*
INT/USA: **Wolfensohn, James D.** – President, World Bank
D: **Wolff von Amerongen, Otto** – Chairman and CEO, Otto Wolff GmbH
USA: **Wolfowitz, Paul** – Dean,

Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, The Johns Hopkins University

Reporters:

GB: **Micklethwait, R. John** – United States Editor, *The Economist*
GB: **Wooldridge, Adrian D.** – Foreign Correspondent, *The Economist*

NEW BILDERBERG CHAIRMAN: Viscount Etienne Davignon

Vice-Chair of the European Commission in the 1980s, Viscount Etienne Davignon is Chairman of Société Générale de Belgique—a massive banking and utility conglomerate in Belgium. He is also Chair of the European Round Table of Industrialists, which formulates anti-democratic policy for the European Commission to implement.

Davignon is a founding member of and President of the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe (AMUE), is a member of David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission and The European Institute in Washington, as well as a director of Anglo-American Mining. He was, and may still be, a governor of The Ditchley Foundation, and he helps run Kissinger Associates.

(Source: *Tony Gosling's website*, <http://www.bilderberg.org/2000.htm> plus links to other relevant sites.)

TEN REASONS why Biotechnology will not ensure Food Security, Protect the Environment and Reduce Poverty in the Developing World

by Miguel A. Altieri, PhD (University of California, Berkeley) and Peter Rosset, PhD (Institute for Food and Development Policy, Oakland, California) © 1999

B iotechnology companies often claim that genetically modified organisms (GMOs)—specifically, genetically altered seeds—are essential scientific breakthroughs needed to feed the world, protect the environment and reduce poverty in developing countries.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)—and its constellation of international centres around the world, charged with research to enhance food security in the developing world—echoes this view, which rests on two critical assumptions. The first is that hunger is due to a gap between food production and human population density or growth rate. The second is that genetic engineering (GE) is the only or best way to increase agricultural production and thus meet future food needs. Our objective is to challenge the notion of biotechnology as a magic-bullet solution to all of agriculture's ills, by clarifying misconceptions concerning these underlying assumptions.

1. The Real Causes of Hunger

There is no relationship between the prevalence of hunger in a given country and its population. For every densely populated and hungry nation like Bangladesh or Haiti, there is a sparsely populated and hungry nation like Brazil and Indonesia. The world today produces more food per inhabitant than ever before.

Enough is available to provide 4.3 pounds for every person every day: 2.5 pounds of grain, beans and nuts, about a pound of meat, milk and eggs and another of fruits and vegetables.

The real causes of hunger are poverty, inequality and lack of access. Too many people are too poor to buy the food that is available (but often poorly distributed), or lack the land and resources to grow it themselves (Lappé, Collins & Rosset, 1998).

2. The Real Thrust of Genetic Engineering: Profits

Most innovations in agricultural biotechnology have been profit-driven rather than need-driven. The real thrust of the genetic engineering industry is not to make Third World agriculture more productive but, rather, to generate profits (Busch et al., 1990).

This is illustrated by reviewing the principal technologies on the market today: (a) herbicide-resistant crops such as Monsanto's "Roundup Ready" soybeans (seeds that are tolerant to Monsanto's herbicide Roundup), and (b) "Bt" crops which are engineered to produce their own insecticide. In the first instance, the goal is to win a greater herbicide market-share for a proprietary product; and in the second, to boost seed sales at the cost of damaging the usefulness of a key pest management product (the *Bacillus thuringiensis*-based microbial insecticide) relied upon by many farmers, including organic farmers, as a powerful alternative to insecticides.

3. Higher Expenditures, Lower Returns for Growers

The integration of the seed and chemical industries appears destined to accelerate increases in per-acre/hectare expenditures for seeds plus chemicals, delivering significantly lower returns to growers. Companies developing herbicide-tolerant crops are trying to shift as much per-acre/hectare cost as possible from the herbicide onto the seed via seed costs and/or technology charges. Increasingly, price reductions for herbicides will be limited to growers purchasing technology packages.

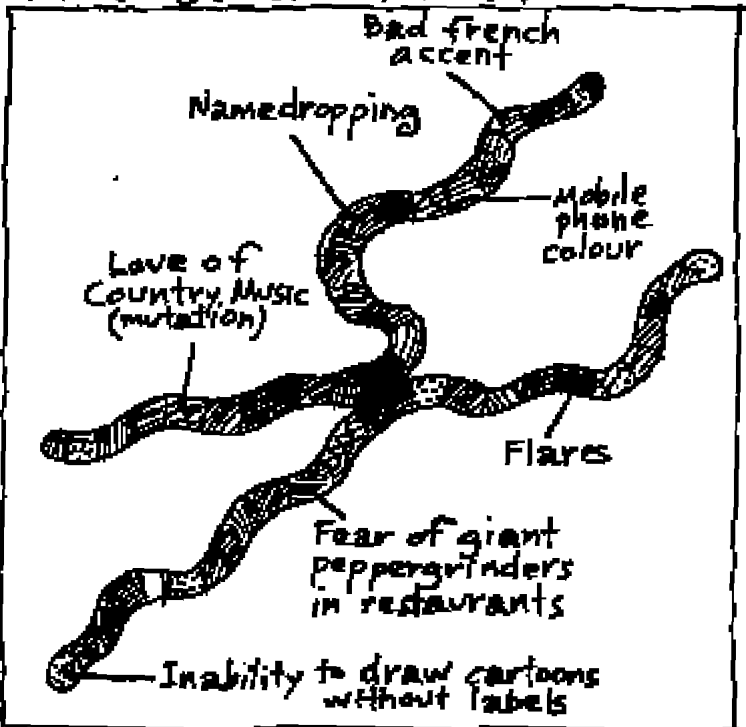
4. GE Seeds Do Not Increase Crop Yields

Recent experimental trials have shown that genetically engineered seeds do not increase the yield of crops. A recent study by the USDA Economic Research Service showed that, in 1998, yields were not significantly different in engineered versus non-engineered crops in 12 of 18 crop/region combinations. In the six crop/region combinations where Bt crops or HRCs fared better, they exhibited increased yields between 5–30%. Glyphosate-tolerant cotton showed no significant yield increase in either region where it was surveyed. This was confirmed in another study examining more than 8,000 field trials, where it was found that Roundup Ready soybean seeds produced fewer bushels of soybeans than similar, conventionally bred varieties (USDA, 1999).

5. Food Safety and Labelling Problems

Many scientists claim that the ingestion of genetically engineered food is harmless. Recent evidence, however, shows that there are potential risks of eating such foods, as the new proteins produced in such

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foods could act themselves as allergens or toxins, alter the metabolism of the food-producing plant or animal, causing it to produce new allergens or toxins, or reduce its nutritional quality or value.

Because genetically engineered foods remain unlabelled, consumers cannot discriminate between GE and non-GE foods; and if serious health problems arise, it will be extremely difficult to trace these foods to their source. Lack of labelling also helps to shield potentially responsible corporations from liability (Lappé & Bailey, 1998).

6. Failure of the "One Pest, One Gene" Approach

Transgenic plants which produce their own insecticides closely follow the pesticide paradigm, which is itself rapidly failing due to pest resistance to insecticides. Instead of the failed "one pest, one chemical" model, genetic engineering emphasises a "one pest, one gene" approach—shown to fail over and over again in laboratory trials, as pest species rapidly adapt and develop resistance to the insecticide that is present in the plant (Alstad & Andow, 1995).

7. Unknown Impacts on Human Health and Ecosystems

The global fight for market share is leading companies to deploy transgenic crops massively around the world (more than 30 million hectares in 1998), without proper advance testing of short- or long-term impacts on human health and ecosystems.

In the USA, private sector pressure led the White House to decree "no substantial difference" between altered and normal seeds, thus evading normal FDA and EPA testing. Confidential documents made public in an ongoing class action lawsuit have revealed that the FDA's own scientists do not agree with this determination. One reason is that many scientists are concerned that the large-scale use of transgenic crops poses a series of environmental risks that threaten the sustainability of agriculture (Goldberg, 1992; Paoletti & Pimentel, 1996; Snow & Moran, 1997; Rissler & Mellon, 1996; Kendall et al., 1997; Royal Society, 1998).

8. Minimal Funds for Environmental Risk Assessment

There are many unanswered ecological questions regarding the impact of transgenic crops. Many environmental groups have argued for the creation of suitable regulation to mediate the testing and release of transgenic crops to offset environmental risks, and demand a much better assessment and understanding of ecological issues associated with genetic engineering.

This is crucial, as many results emerging from the environmental performance of released transgenic crops suggest that in the development of "resistant crops", not only is there a need to test direct effects on the target insect or weed, but the indirect effects on the plant (i.e., growth, nutrient content, metabolic changes), soil and non-target organisms. Unfortunately, funds for research on environmental risk assessment are very limited. For example, the USDA spends only 1% of the funds allocated to biotechnology research on risk assessment, about \$1–2 million per year.

9. Private Sector Compromises the Public Good

As the private sector has exerted more and more dominance in advancing new biotechnologies, the public sector has had to

invest a growing share of its scarce resources in enhancing biotechnological capacities in public institutions, including the CGIAR, and in evaluating and responding to the challenges posed by incorporating private sector technologies into existing farming systems. Such funds would be much better used to expand support for ecologically based agricultural research, as all the biological problems that biotechnology aims at can be solved using agro-ecological approaches. The dramatic effects of rotations and intercropping on crop health and productivity, as well as of the use of biological control agents on pest regulation, have been confirmed repeatedly by scientific research.

The problem is that research at public institutions increasingly reflects the interests of private funders at the expense of public-good research, e.g., on biological control, organic production systems and agro-ecological techniques. Civil society must request more research by universities and other public organisations on biotechnology alternatives (Krimsky & Wrubel, 1996).

There is also an urgent need to challenge the patent system and intellectual property rights intrinsic to the World Trade Organization, which not only provide multinationals with the right to seize and patent genetic resources, but will also accelerate the rate at which market forces already encourage monocultural cropping with genetically uniform transgenic varieties. Based on history and ecological theory, it is not difficult to predict the negative impacts of such environmental simplification on the health of modern agriculture (Altieri, 1996).

10. Biotechnology Bypasses Agro-Ecological Principles

Although there may be some useful applications of biotechnology (i.e., breeding drought-resistant varieties or crops resistant to weed competition), much of the needed food can be produced by small farmers located throughout the world using agro-ecological technologies (Uphoff & Altieri, 1999). In fact, new rural development approaches and low-input technologies spearheaded by farmers and NGOs around the world are already making a significant contribution to food security at the household, national and regional levels in Africa, Asia and Latin America (Pretty, 1995).

Yield increases are being achieved by using technological approaches based on agro-ecological principles that emphasise diversity, synergy, recycling and integration; and social processes that emphasise community participation and empowerment (Rosset, 1999). When such features are optimised, yield enhancement and stability of production are achieved, as well as a series of ecological services such conservation of biodiversity, soil and water restoration and conservation, and improved natural pest-regulation mechanisms (Altieri et al., 1998). These results are a breakthrough for achieving food security and environmental preservation in the developing world, but their potential and further spread depend on investments, policies, institutional support and attitude changes by policy makers and scientists.

Editor's Note:

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deBriefings

THE LOCKERBIE TRIAL Prosecution Case in Chaos

The two Libyans accused of downing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988 could not have planted the bomb, according to a devastating scientific report submitted by one of the Crown's star witnesses, said Glasgow's *Sunday Herald* on 14 May. The report threw the prosecution case into disarray and forced a 12-day adjournment of the Lockerbie trial, being held at a Scottish court in The Netherlands.

The report concludes that the shape of the wreckage fragments proves the Semtex bomb was attached to the inner wall of the aircraft's cargo hold, and it pinpoints the exact spot. It claims the bomb was placed behind a fibreglass shell inside the cargo hold, and that panels of the shell could be unscrewed and lifted off. The bomb was not concealed, as the prosecution case alleges, within a cassette player packed into a suitcase which was stored within a luggage container in the cargo hold. Had it been, the shockwave of the explosion would have been muffled and not powerful enough to bring down the plane, the report claims. The prosecution case stands and falls on proving that the two Libyans placed the bomb inside the cassette player.

Prosecution witness Edwin Bollier delivered a detailed analysis of the explosion, claiming the Crown's version was scientifically impossible. Bollier's Swiss company, MEBO, which legally manufactures timing devices, is said by the Crown to have made the timer used to detonate the bomb. When Bollier was finally shown the actual pieces of the timer by police in Dumfries last September, he was adamant that the fragments were not the same timers he had produced.

Following this, Bollier commissioned scientists to investigate the explosion.

This report gained more kudos with the admission in late May by Christopher Protheroe, an aerospace engineer with the Air Accidents Investigation Branch, that he had miscalculated the location of the bomb in his initial study. An erroneous angle measurement meant that the true location was 12 inches from the wall, not 25 inches as he originally reported.

In a further development, Edwin Bollier told the court on 22 June that a "mystery man" had "more or less blackmailed" him into writing to the CIA, blaming Libya for the 1988 bombing. The letter said that Colonel Gaddafi had called for a "secret conference" and that the Lockerbie bomb had been in a suitcase with bundles of dollars, checked in at Tripoli airport on 20 December. However, Bollier insisted he wrote the CIA letter purely because he wanted to find out the identity of his mysterious visitor and the truth behind the Lockerbie bombing.

The defence is seeking to incriminate two groups, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), which has strong links to Syria and Iran.

Another Gagged Witness Prevented from Testifying

In circumstances echoing those of former US Defense Intelligence Agency operative Lester Coleman (see Global News 7/04), another potential key Lockerbie witness, Dr Richard Fuisz,

is being prevented from testifying. United Nations diplomats are reportedly outraged at this apparent suppression and are demanding that Dr Fuisz be released. Dr Fuisz, allegedly a key CIA operative in Syria during the 1980s, claims that Libya is not responsible for the Lockerbie bombing. He was "gagged" in November 1994 under US state secrecy laws and faces 10 years in prison if he reveals anything about the terrorist attack.

US congressional aide Susan Lindauer, involved in early negotiations over the Lockerbie trial, met with Dr Fuisz a month before the gagging. In an affidavit, Lindauer stated that Fuisz has "first-hand knowledge about the Lockerbie case", that "he can identify who orchestrated and executed the bombing" and that "he can confirm absolutely that no Libyan national was involved".

Iranian Intelligence Defector Blames Tehran

On 4 June, the *60 Minutes* current affairs program in the United States revealed claims by a senior Iranian intelligence service defector that the Lockerbie bombing was masterminded by Iran, not Libya. The Iranian, who had been in a refugee camp in Turkey, said he had documents to prove his claims. The program said he was being held in protective custody in Turkey, being de-briefed by the CIA.

"If his story can be confirmed—and American intelligence is trying to do that right now—it would not only disrupt the trial of the two Libyans charged with that bombing, it could interfere with the Clinton administration's efforts at relaxing and improving relations with Iran," the program stated in its introduction.

Lawyers for the two Libyans said they will try to prove that Syrian-backed

Palestinian extremists were the perpetrators in an act of revenge on behalf of Iran over the USS *Vincennes*' shoot-down of a civilian Iran Air plane, with 290 aboard, six months earlier.

Lockerbie Press Aide Revealed as Former MI6 Agent

Scotland's *Sunday Herald* reported on 21 May that Glasgow University law professor Andrew Fulton, employed as deputy director of the university's Lockerbie trial press briefing unit, was one of Britain's most powerful MI6 officers. His last known position was as its Washington, DC, station head. When he moved to the university last year after stepping down from a 30-year career, he offered his services to the briefing unit.

During the first week of the Lockerbie trial at Camp Zeist, Professor Fulton led a lengthy briefing session for more than 50 foreign journalists, detailing aspects of Scottish law and explaining the background to the case. This revelation, only a few weeks later, has undermined claims by the Lockerbie trial briefing unit that it has been giving independent and impartial advice.

The defence team for the two Libyans was reportedly horrified by Fulton's involvement in the unit, and several news services have unofficially said they will no longer use the unit as a source.

(Sources: The Sunday Herald, Glasgow, 14, 21, 28 May 2000; Associated Press, 25 May 2000; The Telegraph, London, 23 June 2000; Reuters, 5 June 2000)

Convincing evidence is emerging that Libya has been framed over the Lockerbie bombing.

THE MEDIA AND THEIR ATROCITIES

The first casualty in war is always truth, and the mass media have perpetrated many lies on behalf of their masters during the Balkans conflicts.

by Michael Parenti, PhD
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TARGETING THE SERBS

For the better part of a decade, the US public has been bombarded with a media campaign to demonise the Serbian people and their elected leaders. During that time, the US Government has pursued a goal of breaking up Yugoslavia into a cluster of small, weak, dependent, free-market principalities. Yugoslavia was the only country in Eastern Europe that would not dismantle its welfare state and public sector economy. It was the only one that did not beg for entry into NATO. It was—and, what's left of it, still is—charting an independent course not in keeping with the New World Order.

Of the various Yugoslav peoples, the Serbs were targeted for demonisation because they were the largest nationality and the one most opposed to the break-up of Yugoslavia. But what of the atrocities they committed? All sides committed atrocities in the fighting that has been encouraged by the Western powers over the last decade, but the reporting has been consistently one-sided. Grisly incidents of Croat and Muslim atrocities against the Serbs rarely made it into the US press, and when they did they were accorded only passing mention.¹ Meanwhile, Serb atrocities were played up and sometimes even fabricated, as we shall see.

Recently, three Croatian generals were indicted by the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague for the bombardment and deaths of Serbs in Krajina and elsewhere. Where were the US television crews when these war crimes were being committed? John Ranz, chair of Survivors of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, USA, asks: "Where were the TV cameras when hundreds of Serbs were slaughtered by Muslims near Srebrenica?"² The official line, faithfully parroted in the US media, is that Bosnian Serb forces committed all the atrocities at Srebrenica.

Are we to trust US leaders and the corporate-owned news media when they dish out atrocity stories? Recall the 500 premature babies whom Iraqi soldiers laughingly ripped from incubators in Kuwait? This story was repeated and believed until exposed as a total fabrication years later.

During the Bosnian war, in 1993, the Serbs were accused of pursuing an official policy of rape. "Go forth and rape", a Bosnian Serb commander supposedly publicly instructed his troops. The source of that story never could be traced. The commander's name was never produced. As far as we know, no such utterance was ever made. Even the *New York Times* belatedly ran a tiny retraction, coyly allowing that "the existence of 'a systematic rape policy' by the Serbs remains to be proved".³ Bosnian Serb forces supposedly raped anywhere from 25,000 to 100,000 Muslim women; the stories varied. The Bosnian Serb Army numbered not more than 30,000 or so, many of whom were engaged in desperate military engagements. A representative from Helsinki Watch noted that stories of massive Serbian rapes originated with the Bosnian Muslim and Croatian governments and had no credible supporting evidence. Common sense would dictate that these stories be treated with the utmost scepticism—and not be used as an excuse for an aggressive and punitive policy against Yugoslavia.

The "mass rape" propaganda theme was resuscitated in 1999 to justify the continued NATO slaughter of Yugoslavia. A headline in the *San Francisco Examiner* (April 26, 1999) tells us: "Serb Tactic Is Organized Rape, Kosovo Refugees Say". No evidence or testimony is given to support the charge of organised rape. Only at the bottom of the story, in the nineteenth paragraph, do we read that reports gathered by the Kosovo mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) found no such organised rape policy. The actual number of rapes were in the dozens, "and not many dozens"

according to the OSCE spokesperson. This same story did note in passing that the UN War Crimes Tribunal sentenced a Bosnian Croat military commander to 10 years in prison for failing to stop his troops from raping Muslim women in 1993—an atrocity we heard little about when it was happening.

A few dozen rapes is a few dozen too many. But can this serve as one of the justifications for a massive war? If Mr Clinton wanted to stop rapes, he could have begun a little closer to home in Washington, DC, where dozens of rapes occur every month. Indeed, he might be able to alert us to how women are sexually mistreated on Capitol Hill and in the White House itself.

The Serbs were blamed for the infamous Sarajevo market massacre. But according to the report leaked out on French TV, Western intelligence knew that it was Muslim operatives who had bombed Bosnian civilians in the marketplace in order to induce NATO involvement. Even international negotiator Lord (David) Owen, who worked with Cyrus Vance, admitted in his memoirs that NATO powers knew all along that it was a Muslim bomb.⁴ On one occasion, notes Barry Lituchy, the *New York Times* ran a photo purporting to be of Croats grieving over Serbian atrocities, when in fact the murders had been committed by Bosnian Muslims. The *Times* printed an obscure retraction the following week.⁵

The propaganda campaign against Belgrade has been so relentless that even prominent personages on the Left—who oppose the NATO policy against Yugoslavia—have felt compelled to genuflect before this demonisation orthodoxy, referring to unspecified and unverified Serbian "brutality" and "the monstrous Milosevic".⁶ Thus they reveal themselves as having been influenced by the very media propaganda machine they criticise on so many other issues.

To reject the demonised image of Milosevic and the Serbs is not to idealise them or claim that Serbian forces are faultless or free of crimes. It is merely to challenge the one-sided propaganda that laid the grounds for NATO's aggression against Yugoslavia.

THE ETHNIC CLEANSING HYPE

Up until the NATO bombings began in March 1999, the conflict in Kosovo had taken 2,000 lives altogether from both sides, according to Kosovar Albanian sources. Yugoslavian sources put the figure at eight hundred. Such casualties reveal a civil war, not genocide. Belgrade is condemned for the policy of forced expulsion of Albanians from Kosovo. But such expulsions began in substantial numbers only after the NATO bombings, with thousands being uprooted by Serbian forces especially from areas where KLA mercenaries were operating.

We should keep in mind that tens of thousands also fled Kosovo because it was being mercilessly bombed by NATO, or because it was the scene of sustained ground fighting between Yugoslavian forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), or because they were just afraid and hungry. An Albanian woman crossing into Macedonia was eagerly asked by a news crew if she had been forced out by Serbian police. She responded: "There were no Serbs. We were frightened of the [NATO] bombs."⁷ I had to read this in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, an alternative weekly—not in the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*.

During the bombings, an estimated 70,000 to 100,000 Serbian residents of Kosovo took flight (mostly north, but some to the south), as did thousands of Romany and others.⁸ Were the Serbs ethnically cleansing themselves? Or were these people not fleeing the bombing and the ground war? Yet, the refugee tide caused by the bombing was repeatedly used by US warmakers as justification for the bombing, a pressure put on Milosevic to allow "the safe return of ethnic Albanian refugees".⁹

While Kosovar Albanians were leaving in great numbers—usually well-clothed and in good health, some riding their tractors or driving trucks or cars, many of them young men of recruitment age—they were described as being "slaughtered". It was repeatedly reported that "Serb atrocities"—not the extensive ground war with the KLA and certainly not the massive NATO bombing—"drove more than one million Albanians from their homes".¹⁰ More recently, there have been hints that Kosovar Albanian refugees numbered nowhere near that number.

Serbian attacks on KLA strongholds or the forced expulsion of Albanian villagers were described as "genocide". But experts in surveillance photography and wartime propaganda charged

NATO with running a "propaganda campaign" on Kosovo that lacked any supporting evidence. US State Department reports of mass graves and of 100,000 to 500,000 missing Albanian men "are just ludicrous", according to these independent critics.¹¹ Their findings were ignored by the major networks and other national media.

Early in the war, *Newsday* reported that Britain and France were seriously considering "commando assaults into Kosovo to break the pattern of Serbian massacres of ethnic Albanians".¹² What discernible pattern of massacres? Of course,

no commando assaults were put into operation, but the story served its purpose of hyping an image of mass killings.

An ABC *Nightline* show made dramatic and repeated references to the "Serbian atrocities in Kosovo", while offering no specifics. Ted Koppel asked a group of angry Albanian refugees, what specifically had they witnessed. They pointed to an old man in their group who wore a woollen hat. One of them re-enacted what the Serbs had done to him, throwing the man's hat to the ground and stepping on it—"because the Serbs knew that his hat was the most important thing to him". Koppel was appropriately horrified about this "war crime"—the only example offered in an hour-long program.

A widely circulated story in the *New York Times*, headlined "US Report Outlines Serb Attacks in Kosovo", tells us that the State Department issued "the most comprehensive documentary record to date on atrocities". The report concluded that there had been organised rapes and systematic executions. But as one reads further and more closely into the article, one finds that State Department reports of such crimes "...depend almost entirely on information from refugee accounts. There was no suggestion that American intelligence agencies had been able to verify most, or even many, of the accounts...and the words 'reportedly' and 'allegedly' appear throughout the document."¹³

British journalist Audrey Gillan interviewed Kosovar refugees about atrocities and found an impressive lack of evidence or credible specifics. One woman caught Gillan glancing at the watch on

To reject the demonised image of Milosevic and the Serbs is not to idealise them or claim that Serbian forces are faultless or free of crimes.

her wrist while her husband told her [Gillan] how all the women had been robbed of their jewellery and other possessions. A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees talked of mass rapes and what sounded like hundreds of killings in three villages, but when Gillan pressed him for more precise information he reduced it drastically to five or six teenage rape victims. But he had not spoken to any witnesses and admitted, "We have no way of verifying these reports".¹⁴

Gillan notes that some refugees had seen killings and other atrocities, but there was little to suggest that they had seen them on the scale that was being reported. One afternoon, officials in charge said there were refugees arriving who talked of 60 or more being killed in one village and 50 in another, but Gillan "could not find one eyewitness who actually saw these things happening". Yet, every day, Western journalists reported "hundreds" of rapes and murders. Sometimes they noted in passing that the reports had yet to be substantiated, but then why were such unverified stories being so eagerly reported in the first place?

THE DISAPPEARING "MASS GRAVES"

After NATO forces occupied Kosovo, the stories about mass atrocities continued *fortissimo*. The *Washington Post* reported that 350 ethnic Albanians "might be buried in mass graves" around a mountain village in western Kosovo. They "might be" or they might not be. These estimates were based on sources that NATO officials refused to identify. Getting down to specifics, the article mentions "four decomposing bodies" discovered near a large ash heap, with no details as to who they might be or how they died.¹⁵

It was repeatedly announced in the first days of the NATO occupation that 10,000 Albanians had been killed—down from the 100,000 and even 500,000 Albanian men supposedly executed during the war. No evidence was ever offered to support the 10,000 figure, nor even to explain how it was arrived at so swiftly and surely while NATO troops were still moving into place and occupied but small portions of the province.

Likewise, repeatedly unsubstantiated references were made to "mass graves", each purportedly filled with hundreds or even thousands of Albanian victims, but such graves also failed to materialise.

Through the [northern] summer of 1999, the media hype about mass graves devolved into an occasional unspecified reference. The few sites actually unearthed offered up as many as a dozen bodies or sometimes twice that number, but with no certain evidence regarding causes of death or even the nationality of victims. In some cases, there was reason to believe the victims were Serbs.¹⁶

On April 19, 1999, while the NATO bombings of Yugoslavia were going on, the State Department announced that up to 500,000 Kosovar Albanians were missing and feared dead. On May 16, US Secretary of Defense William Cohen, a former Republican senator from Maine and now serving in President Clinton's Democratic Administration, stated that 100,000 military-aged ethnic Albanian men had vanished and might have been killed by the Serbs.¹⁷ Such widely varying but horrendous figures from official sources went unchallenged by the media and by the

many liberals who supported NATO's "humanitarian rescue operation". Among these latter were some supposedly progressive members of Congress who seemed to believe they were witnessing another Nazi Holocaust.

On June 17, just before the end of the war, British Foreign Office Minister Geoff Hoon said that "in more than 100 massacres" some 10,000 ethnic Albanians had been killed¹⁸—down from the 500,000 and 100,000 bandied about by US officials. A day or two after the bombings stopped, Associated Press and other news agencies, echoing Hoon, reported that 10,000 Albanians had been killed by the Serbs.¹⁹ No explanation was given as to how this figure was arrived at, especially since not a single war site had yet been investigated and NATO forces had barely begun to move into Kosovo.

On August 2, Bernard Kouchner, the United Nations' chief administrator in Kosovo (and Doctors Without Borders organiser), asserted that about 11,000 bodies had been found in common graves throughout Kosovo. He cited as his source the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Republic of Yugoslavia (ICTY). But the ICTY denied providing any such information. To this day, it is not clear how Kouchner came up with his estimate.²⁰

It was repeatedly announced in the first days of the NATO occupation that 10,000 Albanians had been killed—down from the 100,000 and even 500,000 Albanian men supposedly executed during the war.

As with the Croatian and Bosnian conflicts, the image of mass killings was hyped once again. Repeatedly unsubstantiated references to "mass graves", each allegedly containing hundreds or even thousands of Albanian victims, were publicised in daily media reports. In September 1999, Jared Israel did an Internet search for newspaper articles that appeared over the previous three months and included the words "Kosovo" and "mass grave". The report came back: "More than 1,000—too many to list". Limiting his search to articles in the *New York Times*, he came up with 80,

nearly one a day. Yet when it came down to hard evidence, the mass graves seemed to disappear.

Thus, in mid-June, the FBI sent a team to investigate two of the sites listed in the war-crimes indictment against Slobodan Milosevic, one purportedly containing six victims and the other twenty. The team lugged 107,000 pounds of equipment into Kosovo to handle what was called the "largest crime scene in the FBI's forensic history", but it came up with no reports about mass graves. Not long after, on July 1, the FBI team returned home, oddly with not a word to say about its investigation.²¹

Forensic experts from other NATO countries had similar experiences. For instance, a Spanish forensic team was told to prepare for at least 2,000 autopsies but found only 187 bodies, usually buried in individual graves and showing no signs of massacre or torture. Most seemed to have been killed by mortar shells and firearms. One Spanish forensic expert, Emilio Perez Puhola, acknowledged that his team did not find one mass grave. He dismissed the widely publicised references about mass graves as being part of the "machinery of war propaganda".²²

In late August 1999, the *Los Angeles Times* tried to salvage the genocide theme with a story about how the wells of Kosovo might be "mass graves in their own right". The *Times* claimed that: "...many corpses have been dumped into wells in Kosovo... Serbian forces apparently stuffed...many bodies of ethnic

Albanians into wells during their campaign of terror." ²³ Apparently? Whenever the story got down to specifics, it dwelled on only one village and only one well—in which one body of a 39-year-old male was found, along with three dead cows and a dead dog. Neither his nationality nor cause of death was given. Nor was it clear who owned the well. "No other human remains were discovered," the *Times* lamely concluded. ²⁴ As far as I know, neither the *Los Angeles Times* nor any other media outlet ran any more stories of wells stuffed with victims.

In one gravesite after another, bodies were failing to materialise in any substantial numbers—or any numbers at all. In July 1999, a "mass grave" in Ljubenic, near Pec (an area of concerted fighting), believed to be holding some 350 corpses, produced only seven after the exhumation. In Djacovica, town officials claimed that 100 ethnic Albanians had been murdered, but there were no bodies because the Serbs had returned in the middle of the night, dug them up and carted them away, the officials seemed to believe. In Pusto Selo, villagers claimed that 106 men were captured and killed by Serbs at the end of March, but again no remains were discovered. Villagers once more suggested that Serbian forces must have come back and removed them. How they accomplished this without being detected was not explained. In Izbica, refugees reported that 150 ethnic Albanians were executed in March, but their bodies were nowhere to be found. In Kraljan, 82 men were supposedly killed, but investigators found not a single cadaver. ²⁵

The worst incident of mass atrocities ascribed to Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosevic allegedly occurred at the Trepca mine. As reported by US and NATO officials, the Serbs threw a thousand or more bodies down the shafts or disposed of them in the mine's vats of hydrochloric acid. In October 1999, the ICTY released the findings of

Western forensic teams investigating Trepca. Not one body was found in the mine shafts, nor was there any evidence that the vats had ever been used in an attempt to dissolve human remains. ²⁶

By late autumn of 1999, the media hype about mass graves had fizzled noticeably. The many sites unearthed, considered to be the most notorious, offered up a few hundred bodies altogether, not the thousands or tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands previously trumpeted, and with no evidence of torture or mass execution. In many cases, there was no certain evidence regarding the nationality of victims. ²⁷ No mass killings means that The Hague War Crimes Tribunal indictment of Milosevic "becomes highly questionable", notes Richard Gwyn. "Even more questionable is the West's continued punishment of the Serbs." ²⁸

No doubt there were graves in Kosovo that contained two or more persons (which is NATO's definition of a "mass grave"). People were killed by bombs and by the extensive land war that went on between Yugoslavian and KLA forces. Some of the dead, as even the *New York Times* allowed, were "fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army or may have died ordinary deaths"—as would happen in any large population over time. ²⁹ And no doubt there were grudge killings and summary executions as in any war, but not on a scale that would warrant the label of "genocide" and justify the massive death and destruction and the continuing misery inflicted upon Yugoslavia by the Western powers.

We should remember that the propaganda campaign waged by NATO officials and the major media never claimed merely that atrocities (murders and rapes) occurred. Such crimes occur in every war—indeed, in many communities during peacetime. What the media propaganda campaign against Yugoslavia charged was that mass atrocities and mass rapes and mass murders had been perpetrated—that is, genocide, as evidenced by mass graves.

In contrast to its public assertions, the German Foreign Office privately denied there was any evidence that genocide or ethnic cleansing was ever a component of Yugoslav policy: "Even in Kosovo, an explicit political persecution linked to Albanian ethnicity is not verifiable... The actions of the [Yugoslavian] security forces [were] not directed against the Kosovo Albanians as an ethnically defined group, but against the military opponent and its actual or alleged supporters." ³⁰

Still, Milosevic was indicted as a war criminal, charged with the forced expulsion of Kosovar Albanians and with summary executions of a hundred or so individuals—again, alleged crimes that occurred after the NATO bombing had started, yet were used as justification for the bombing.

The biggest war criminals of all are NATO and the political

leaders who orchestrated the aerial campaign of death and destruction. But here is how the White House and the US media reasoned at the time: since the aerial attacks do not intend to kill civilians, then presumably there is no liability and no accountability; an occasional apology for the regrettable mistakes is all that's required—as if only the intent of an action counted and not its ineluctable effects. In fact, a perpetrator can be judged guilty of wilful murder without explicitly intending the death of a particular victim—as when the death results from an unlawful act which the perpetrator knew would likely

By late autumn of 1999, the media hype about mass graves had fizzled noticeably. The many sites unearthed, considered to be the most notorious, offered up a few hundred bodies altogether, not the thousands or tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands previously trumpeted...

cause death.

George Kenney, a former State Department official under the Bush Administration, put it well: "Dropping cluster bombs on highly populated urban areas doesn't result in accidental fatalities. It is purposeful terror-bombing." ³¹

LAPDOGS OF THE SECURITY STATE

In sum, through a process of monopoly control and distribution, repetition and image escalation, the media achieve self-confirmation; that is, they find confirmation for the images they fabricate in the images they have already fabricated. Hyperbolic labelling takes the place of evidence: "genocide", "mass atrocities", "systematic rapes" and even "rape camps"—camps which no one has ever located. Through this process, evidence is not only absent, it becomes irrelevant.

So the US major media (and much of the minor media) are not free and independent, as they claim; they are not the watchdogs of democracy, but the lapdogs of the national security state. They help reverse the roles of victims and victimisers, warmongers and peacekeepers, reactionaries and reformers.

The first atrocity, the first war crime committed in any war of aggression by the aggressors, is against the truth.

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HOLY SMOKE AND MIRRORS

The Vatican Conspiracy

In its zeal to stamp out communism, the Vatican set up alliances during World War II with various secret societies, fascist groups and spying agencies and has maintained these networks ever since.

by David G. Guyatt © 2000

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THE MAFIA, THE CIA, AND THE VATICAN'S INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS

Albert Vincent Carone is one of those people who spent his life dancing between raindrops and turning invisible wherever a shadow lingered. He existed and also didn't exist. Al Carone—unlike his near namesake, Al Capone—truly was a paradox wrapped in a mystery concealed behind an enigma.

Carone was a detective in the New York Police Department, but this didn't stop him from becoming a "made" man in the Genovese crime family. He knew all the leading Mafiosi of his day, including Vito Genovese, Sam Giancana, Santos Trafficante, Joe Colombo and Pauley Castellano amongst others. To Carone's daughter, Dee, they were all known as "Uncle". When she got married, her father arranged two different reception rooms to separate the Mob guests from the NYPD guests. But this was more window-dressing than anything else. One of Carone's principal functions in the NYPD was to act as the "bagman" in protecting shipments of CIA drugs to the various Mafia families.

Carone died in 1990 under mysterious circumstances. This followed a period of great personal disenchantment with his life, following a secretive mission to Mexico in 1985 when a large number of innocent women and children died unnecessarily. His death was horrific, reports Mike Ruppert, editor of *From The Wilderness* newsletter, who has investigated Carone's life story and written a special report on it (see acknowledgements).

Meanwhile, another "Uncle" was Bill Casey, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency during the Reagan Administration. Casey had been with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II. During the 1970s, he became Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) which regulates the US investment industry. During his tenure in that role, Casey used Carone as a "cut out" to pass sensitive insider information to Mob capo Pauley Castellano, says his daughter, Dee.

Carone was also a Full Colonel in the US Army, where he had operated in the Army's Counter Intelligence Corp (CIC). Unsurprisingly, in view of his close friendship with Bill Casey, he was also a covert operative for the CIA. But that wasn't half of it. Carone was also a Grand Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM), which historically has been the military arm of the Vatican and is regarded as a separate State with full powers of statehood, including issuing its own diplomatic passports.

In more recent decades SMOM has acted as a funding conduit, a black market gold channel and money laundry for the CIA, amongst others, and is known to act as the Vatican's intelligence arm. It was alleged to be involved in, for example, the disappearance of Russia's gold reserves—over 2,000 metric tonnes—which vanished during 1991, around the time that Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev was ousted from office.

Malta knighthoods are awarded to many leading individuals who are part of the military and intelligence community. The CIA's Bill Casey, for example, was a Knight of Malta. Former NATO General and later US Secretary of State Alexander Haig is also a Malta Knight. Another is General Vernon Walters, the former Deputy Director of the CIA under DCI George Bush, and later appointed a roving ambassador during the Reagan Administration. The legendary head of the OSS (the WWII precursor of the CIA), "Wild" Bill Donovan, was made a Knight along with his wartime compatriot and later CIA Chief of Counterintelligence, James Jesus Angleton. And John McCone, another prominent member of the US "spook" agency, was also distinguished with a Malta knighthood. The list goes on. Most interesting is Reinhard Gehlen, the former Nazi intelligence expert recruited by the US in 1945–46 to head the Gehlen Org—a secret, German-based intelligence arm of the United States that was composed of former SS and Gestapo agents,

many of whom, including Klaus Barbie, were wanted Nazi war criminals. The foregoing names amount to a listing of some of the most powerful and influential members of the Western intelligence community over the last five decades.

One Vatican group that has extremely close ties to the Knights of Malta is the ultra-right-wing *Opus Dei*. This is an immensely powerful faction in the Vatican today, and its public "do good" activities eclipse a plethora of the darkest political and financial machinations known to man. It will not come as a surprise, perhaps, that Carone was closely associated with *Opus Dei* and, in particular, with a covert operation that had its origin back in 1944. This was Operation *Amadeus*.

FROM RATLINES TO DRUG SMUGGLING ROUTES

This highly secretive operation was part of the Operation *Sunrise* negotiations conducted between Allen Dulles—the then senior wartime OSS officer in Switzerland, but later to become the Director of the CIA—and SS General Karl Wolff. This debonair and well-connected SS officer commanded the SS and Gestapo contingents in Italy at the time.

The result of these negotiations (at least those parts that are now known about) was an agreement affording amnesty to an extensive roster of SS–Gestapo forces, in exchange for their agreement to shift their allegiance to the West in the pre-planned, covert battle aimed at defeating the Soviet communist "menace"—in other words, the "Cold War".

One spin-off of these Dulles–Wolff arrangements were the Vatican-run "ratlines" that aided wanted Nazi war criminals to slink to safety. Tens of thousands of SS and other Nazis escaped capture as a result of the ratlines. These included such figures as Franz Stangl, commandant at Treblinka extermination camp, and his friend Gustav Wagner, who ran the Sobibor death camp. Others to escape in this

manner included Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the Holocaust. Eichmann was later captured by Israeli intelligence agents, smuggled to Tel Aviv where he stood trial and was eventually executed. In comparison, Dr Joseph Mengele—known as "the White Angel", a war criminal wanted for his cruel and inhuman experiments on death camp inmates at Auschwitz—escaped to Argentina and lived a long life.

Operation *Amadeus* was exclusively concerned with the flight of SS and Nazi war criminals to the South American continent and their later ferocious covert actions against the indigenous populations justified under the banner of "anti-communism". One individual engaged in *Amadeus* activities was former Gestapo officer Klaus Barbie, known to the world as "the Butcher of Lyon".

The principal means of funding Operation *Amadeus* activities was the hugely profitable narcotics business. Large stocks of SS morphia had been smuggled out of Europe and into "Catholic" South America at the end of the War in accordance with the *Sunrise* agreement. The morphia was accompanied by looted SS gold and large quantities of counterfeit British banknotes, forged in concentration camps by captive but skilled counterfeiters as part of an SS scheme known as Operation *Bernhardt*.

The escape "lines" used to move wanted men around South America, away from the prying eyes of Israeli agents, also proved ideal as smuggling routes for drugs. Decades later, the stocks of

heroin smuggled into the United States for distribution by the CIA-protected Mafia would be complemented with locally grown cocaine.

One of the figures to emerge into the spotlight during the 1980s who was deeply involved in this narcotics traffic was Colonel Oliver North, who authorised the exchange of guns for drugs to finance Contra operations. Oliver North was known to Al Carone under his "work" name, "John Caffrey". This was the time when Carone was engaged in CIA-controlled cocaine transactions with Joe "Pickles" Percilia, a member of the Colombo crime family.

These curious and usually concealed connections between governments (in the form of the military and intelligence community), organised crime, the Vatican and Nazi war criminals have some significant history. Not least was the secret agreement reached between US Naval Intelligence officers and Mafia don Charles "Lucky" Luciano during World War II. This resulted in the Mafia's decision to aid and assist the Allies by contacting Mob figure Vito Genovese in 1943 to prepare the way for the Allied landing in Sicily. As earlier outlined, it was primarily those SS–Gestapo units located in Italy under command of SS General Wolff that were initially concerned in the Operation *Sunrise* negotiations.

And while large numbers of former Nazis were fleeing south to fight the communist menace in Latin America—and, more impor-

tantly, to profit personally from their involvement in the lucrative drug and gun business—in Europe, the spade-work was being laid to overthrow or thwart democratically elected governments via a network of fascist-manned "Stay Behind units", organised under the aegis of Operation *Gladio*. Not surprisingly, this would also lead to certain involved figures making personal fortunes out of other people's misery—a circumstance that is so commonplace it is barely worth mentioning.

These neo-fascist activities would come to prominence in the early 1980s following the collapse of Banco Ambrosiano and the death of Italian banker Roberto Calvi, who was "suicided" and left hanging under London's Blackfriars Bridge. This would lead to sensational disclosures about the role of the Vatican Bank, the IOR, in Calvi's financial empire and would quickly grow to include the activities of Mafia financier Michele Sindona—whose activities, in turn, would implicate leading blue-blood banks in Europe and America in Mafia activities. Both Sindona and Calvi were close to *Opus Dei*, which lost around \$55 million when Sindona's empire crashed. According to his family, Roberto Calvi was deeply engrossed in helping *Opus Dei* take control of the IOR when he was killed.

Meanwhile, both Calvi and Sindona were members of the secretive *Propaganda Due* (P2) masonic lodge, which is said to have been a "parallel government" in waiting and which planned to effect a *coup d'état* in Italy following a Communist Party victory at the polls.

P2 was run by former Italian fascist and member of the Nazi SS, Licio Gelli—dubbed "the Puppet Master" by the Italian press. Gelli's connections to the ultra-hard-right and fascists in Europe and Latin America were extensive. In fact, he had been deeply involved in establishing the Vatican-run ratlines that aided the *worst* Nazi war criminals to escape Allied justice at the end of WWII. All told, an estimated 50,000 Nazis were helped to freedom.

One Vatican group that has extremely close ties to the Knights of Malta is the ultra-right-wing *Opus Dei*.

Gelli had numerous powerful friends, including former Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. He was also a personal friend of Argentina's General Juan Perón, and his close associations with Argentina would later lead him to be a key figure in shipping a supply of French *Exocet* missiles to sink British Task Force ships during the Falklands War. In this endeavour he worked closely with Ronald R. Rewald, founder of the Hawaiian-based financial institution Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong—a CIA proprietary company and forerunner of the CIA-owned Nugan Hand Bank.

The involvement of a CIA front company engaged in financing and providing weapons to be used against a key American ally (Britain) with the wholehearted public support of the US Government may seem somewhat duplicitous. However, in the world of "black ops", "friends" and "enemies" are interchangeable words and working both sides of the fence is accepted practice.

In terms of hierarchy, Gelli reported to Umberto Ortolani, described by one writer as "the great Vatican door-opener" and "secret chamberlain of the papal household". In addition to his P2 connections, Ortolani is also a member of the inner council of the Knights of Malta and has military intelligence connections that date back to WWII.

THE OCTOPUS AND THE SPIDER

There are numerous other masonic groups and secret societies in Europe which move in and out of focus at various times. Almost all of them are Catholic in nature.

One of these is the Priory of Sion (*Prieuré de Sion*)—a secretive order that first came to public attention via the best-selling book, *The Holy Blood And The Holy Grail*, published in 1982. The Priory is closely connected with the alleged treasure of Solomon which is said to have found its way to the small village of Rennes-le-Château in southwestern France, where it is said to have been buried by the Knights Templars, forerunners of the Knights of Malta.

The Priory, whose headquarters were located at Annemasse, near Geneva on the Swiss border, are styled as the "guardians" of Solomon's treasure, but, most interestingly, they have numerous subterranean connections to fascists and those on the far right that date back to WWII. Meanwhile, it has to be noted in passing that Annemasse is said to have been the centre for the anti-communist Stay Behind units of Operation *Gladio*.

If this is not intriguing enough, another fact stretches coincidence to the point of bursting. In recent years, the Priory of Sion has moved its headquarters to Barcelona and now boasts a Spanish Grand Master. This, one could conclude, is to enable it to be physically closer to the historical heartland of Opus Dei, which was founded in Spain in 1928.

If Otto Skorzeny was a leading force in running the SS Brotherhood escape routes—*Der Spinne*, the Spider—after the war, and SS General Karl Wolff was the lead negotiator with OSS Swiss Chief, Allen Dulles, then another Nazi, Walter Rauff, head of the Milan SD, was one of two liaisons with the Vatican involved in the establishment of the Nazi-smuggling system. Earlier in his career, Rauff had overseen the development of the Nazis' mobile gas vans, known as "Black Ravens", which gassed

to death around 100,000 Jews, mostly women and children, by pumping exhaust fumes into the back of an hermetically sealed van.

Another important link between the Vatican and SS escape routes was Friedrich Schwendt, who was also the man in charge of laundering forged SS banknotes. Before WWII, Schwendt was an international arms dealer who shipped weapons to China and Russia. He was also the investment manager of the family fortune of his first wife's aunt, Baroness Gemmingen-Guttenberg, of the vastly wealthy Argentina-based Bunge family, of the massive transnational firm Bunge Corporation that is also known as "the Octopus".

This title is interesting, for it may connect to the so-called "Octopus" that ties in to murdered freelance journalist Danny Casolaro, who at the time of his death in 1991 was investigating a number of high-level illegalities including the theft by the Department of Justice of a "tracking" computer program known as "PROMIS". Casolaro was writing a book about what he had discovered.

He originally titled it "Behold, A Pale Horse", but later modified it to "The Octopus". In a draft page of the book, he described this group as an "international cabal whose freelance services covered parochial political intrigue, espionage, sophisticated weapon technologies that included biotoxins, drug trafficking, money laundering and murder-for-hire". Casolaro further stated that this cabal was "spawned thirty years ago in the shadow of the Cold War".

After Casolaro's death, journalist Carol Marshall (a pen name) followed up his investigation and wrote an (as yet) unpublished manuscript, titled "The Last Circle". In this, Marshall describes her investigation of Robert Booth Nichols—one of the central figures of the Octopus, whom she describes as being part of a secretive group known as "the Chosen Ones" and who wore "skull and crossbones rings and shared a common interest, if you could call it that, in the old German SS occultism, its tribal and inner circle rites".

During her continuing investigation into the Octopus, Marshall found that the SS

occultism outlined above was connected to Lt. Col. Michael A. Aquino, a former US Green Beret who is a self-professed Satanist and who held a Top Secret security clearance for his work in military intelligence and on classified psychological warfare matters. Aquino officiated at SS black-magic ceremonies held at Wewelsburg, the castle once used by SS chief Heinrich Himmler to create an SS order of Teutonic knights based on the Knights Templars.

The foregoing connections lend themselves to a larger picture of global, interlocking, right-wing fascist groupings that operate in the shadowland of deniable military and intelligence operations associated with profit during WWII and, later, throughout the Cold War.

In this respect, it is intriguing to note that the Priory of Sion, one of the foremost Catholic groups under discussion, uses as a symbol something that is variously described as an octopus or a spider (*araignée*) on its documents. The Priory's association with the octopus could easily relate to the so-called Octopus described above, where organised crime works hand in glove with operatives

The foregoing connections lend themselves to a larger picture of global, interlocking, right-wing fascist groupings that operate in the shadowland of deniable military and intelligence operations...

from US intelligence and the military. If one decides, on the other hand, that the Priory symbol is a spider, there is the intriguing notion of the Vatican-run Nazi escape lines of Austrian Catholic Otto Skorzeny and his SS Brotherhood's *Der Spinne* (the Spider).

THE BUSINESS OF GOD

Al Carone was, as mentioned earlier, a "made" man of the Genovese Mob in addition to his other associations. It is curious, therefore, to note that one of the leading lights of the Octopus, according to writer Carol Marshall, was ultra-right-wing oil tycoon Clint Murchison, owner of the Dallas Cowboys football team. Murchison's oil company, Murchison Oil Lease Company, was 20 per cent owned by Gerardo Catena, the chief lieutenant of the Genovese crime family.

Throughout the Second World War and thereafter there was, according to author Charles Higham in his book, *Trading With The Enemy*, a "general agreement of certain major figures of American, British and German commerce to continue their relations and associations after Pearl Harbor". Higham adds that he also learned that "certain figures of the warring governments had arranged to assist in this [activity]". Higham's subsequent research proved that this high cabal—which he dubbed "the Fraternity"—not only existed but benefited handsomely throughout WWII. This led the author to ask:

What would have happened if millions of Americans and British people, struggling with coupons and lines at the gas stations, had learned that in 1942 Standard Oil of New Jersey managers shipped the enemy's fuel through neutral Switzerland and that the enemy was shipping Allied fuel? Suppose the public had discovered that the Chase Bank in Nazi-occupied Paris after Pearl Harbor was doing millions of dollars' worth of business with the enemy with the full knowledge of the head office in Manhattan? Or that Ford trucks were being built for the German occupation troops in France with authorisation from Dearborn, Michigan? Or that Colonel Sosthenes Behn, the head of the international American telephone conglomerate ITT, flew from New York to Madrid to Berne during the war to help improve Hitler's communications systems and improve the robot bombs that devastated London? Or that ITT built the Focke-Wulfs that dropped bombs on British and American troops? Or that crucial ball-bearings were shipped to Nazi-associated customers in Latin America with the collusion of the Vice-Chairman of the US War Production Board, in partnership with Göring's cousin in Philadelphia, when American forces were desperately short of them? Or that such arrangements were known about in Washington and either sanctioned or deliberately ignored?

Higham's "Fraternity" has similar characteristics to the so-called "Octopus", and also shows certain similarities to Colonel Oliver North's "Enterprise". All have engaged in the most dubious and illegal activities for profit, and all operate hand in glove with organised crime. All lean so far to the right, ideologically speaking, that the word "fascist" can be used without reservation. Meanwhile, none of them cares very much for the woes of

humanity and, indeed, they appear committed to stomping on ethics and moral values wherever they meet them.

The octopus—or "Oct Opus", as one European documentary film producer renders the spelling when referring to Opus Dei (which began life on 2 October 1928)—has eight arms that surround its mouth (ensuring a constant supply of food) and three hearts, and is therefore not prone to starving or dying. But it can also be identified by these oddities. Opus Dei, the group that is now in control of the Vatican, is undoubtedly one arm of this global criminal network, in this writer's view. Or are the three hearts of the octopus more vital to identify? Could they be analogous to the "Church, State and Mafia, the forces that prevail beneath the play of the shadows of the world" (as described by Nick Tosches in his book, *Power On Earth*, which tells the life story of murdered Mafia financier Michele Sindona)?

There is yet another interesting twist to this accumulation of associations: Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands. The Prince was the founding chairman of the publicity-shy Western power elite, the Bilderbergers. This shadowy and secretive group meets over a weekend in May/June each year, under an almost total media blackout [see deBriefings this issue]. Powerful and very influential figures from the world of banking, business, politics, the media, trades unions and academia are invited. Included regularly, for example, are Dr Henry

Kissinger, David Rockefeller, and Italy's "king-maker", Gianni Agnelli. The first meeting took place in May 1954.

This, strangely, was the same year that Prince Bernhard became head of the *Johanitter Orde in Nederland*, one of four orders that make up the Chivalric Alliance of Orders of Saint John (*Alliance de Chevalerie des Hospitaliers de Saint Jean de Jérusalem*). The stated purpose of these four, known as "the Alliance"—which is composed of northern European nations Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and Great Britain, the latter being an ancient order known

as "the Most Venerable Order"—is "to reduce to silence the enemies of Christ". The headquarters of the Alliance are located in Switzerland.

These are Protestant orders rather than Catholic, but it is of significance that, on 26 November 1963, the Alliance was "consolidated with the signing of a joint declaration between the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Most Venerable Order, at St John's Gate, London, by the Grand Chancellor of the SMOM, the Prince of Resuttano, and Lord Wakehurst, Lord Prior of the Most Venerable Order". In other words, the Catholic and Protestant orders bound themselves to work together to "silence the enemies of Christ"—a clear reference to communism.

Interestingly, it has been suggested that the Knights Templars were "infected" with the Johannite or Mandaean heresy that denounced Jesus as a "false prophet" and in his place recognised John the Baptist as the true Messiah. Meanwhile, two early Grand Masters of the Priory of Sion are said to have had Johannite tendencies: Leonardo da Vinci and Sir Isaac Newton. Notwithstanding that, the famous founder of the Knights Templars, Hughes de Payens, has been accused by the Vatican of being a Johannite.

Leaving aside this brief foray into esoteric history, it is as well

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X-RAYS: A MAJOR CAUSE OF CANCER AND HEART DISEASE?

*Medical X-rays
may be
responsible for a
large proportion
of cancer and
coronary heart
disease cases.*

by Peter Montague © 2000

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When Wilhelm Roentgen discovered X-rays in 1895, "doctors and physicians saw the practical potential of X-rays at once, and rushed to experiment with them".¹ Many physicians built their own X-ray equipment, with mixed results: some home-brew X-ray machines produced no radiation whatsoever; others produced enough to irradiate everyone in the next room.

The ability to see inside the human body for the first time was a marvellous, mysterious and deeply provocative discovery. Roentgen trained X-rays on his wife's hand for 15 minutes, producing a macabre image of the bones of her hand adorned by her wedding ring. Roentgen's biographer, Otto Glasser, says Mrs Roentgen "...could hardly believe that this bony hand was her own and shuddered at the thought that she was seeing her skeleton. To Mrs Roentgen, as to many others later, this experience gave a vague premonition of death," Glasser wrote.²

Within the year, physicians were using X-rays for diagnosis and as a new way of gathering evidence to protect themselves against malpractice suits. Almost immediately—during 1895–96—it also became clear that X-rays could cause serious medical problems. Some physicians received burns that wouldn't heal, requiring amputation of their fingers. Others developed fatal cancers.

At that time, antibiotics had not yet been discovered, so physicians had only a small number of treatments they could offer their patients. X-rays gave them a range of new procedures that were very "high tech"—bordering on the miraculous—and which seemed to hold out promise to the sick. Thus the medical world embraced these mysterious, invisible rays with great enthusiasm. Understandably, physicians at the time often thought they observed therapeutic benefits, where controlled experiments today find none. Just prior to 1920, the editor of *American X-Ray Journal* said "there are about 100 named diseases that yield favorably to X-ray treatment".

In her informative history of the technology, *Multiple Exposures: Chronicles of the Radiation Age*, Catherine Caufield (see *REHW*, nos. 200–202) comments on this period:³ "Radiation treatment for benign [non-cancer] diseases became a medical craze that lasted for 40 or more years... [L]arge groups of people [were] needlessly irradiated for such minor problems as ringworm and acne... Many women had their ovaries irradiated as a treatment for depression." Such uses of X-rays would today be viewed as quackery, but many of them were accepted medical practice into the 1950s. Physicians weren't the only ones enthusiastic about X-ray therapies. If you get a large enough dose of X-rays, your hair falls out—so, Caufield reports, "beauty shops installed X-ray equipment to remove their customers' unwanted facial and body hair".

Roentgen's discovery of X-rays in 1895 led directly to Henri Becquerel's discovery of the radioactivity of uranium in 1896, and then to the discovery of radium by Marie Curie and her husband Pierre in 1898—for which Becquerel and the Curies were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in 1903. (Twenty years later, Madame Curie would die of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.)

Soon, alongside X-rays, radioactive radium was being prescribed by physicians. Radium treatments were prescribed for heart trouble, impotence, ulcers, depression, arthritis, cancer, high blood pressure, blindness and tuberculosis, among other ailments. Soon radioactive toothpaste was being marketed, then radioactive skin cream. In Germany, chocolate bars containing radium were sold as a "rejuvenator".⁴ In the USA, hundreds of thousands of people began drinking bottled water laced with radium, as a general elixir known popularly as "liquid sunshine". As recently as 1952, *Life* magazine

wrote about the beneficial effects of inhaling radioactive radon gas in deep mines. Even today, The Merry Widow Health Mine near Butte, Montana, and the nearby Sunshine Radon Health Mine advertise that visitors to the mines report multiple benefits from inhaling radioactive radon,⁵ even though numerous studies now indicate that the only demonstrable health effect of radon gas is lung cancer.

Thus the medical world and popular culture together embraced X-rays (and other radioactive emanations) as miraculous remedies, gifts to humanity from the foremost geniuses of an inventive age.

THE LEGACY OF "ATOMS FOR PEACE"

In the popular imagination, these technologies suffered a serious setback when atomic [and hydrogen] bombs were detonated over Japan in 1945. Even though the bombs arguably shortened World War II and saved American lives, John Hersey's description of the human devastation in Hiroshima forever imprinted the mushroom cloud in the popular mind as an omen of unutterable ruin. Despite substantial efforts to cast The Bomb in a positive light, radiation technology would never recover the lustre it had gained before WWII.

Seven years after the nuclear bombs were used in war, Dwight Eisenhower set the US Government on a new course, intended to show the world that nuclear weapons, radioactivity and radiation were not harbingers of death but were in fact powerful, benign servants offering almost limitless benefits to humankind. The "Atoms for Peace" program was born, explicitly aimed at convincing Americans and the world that these new technologies were full of hope, and that nuclear power reactors should be developed with tax dollars to generate electricity. The promise of this newest technical advance seemed too good to be true: electricity "too cheap to meter".⁶

The Atomic Energy Act of 1946 created the civilian Atomic Energy Commission, but as a practical matter the nation's top military commanders maintained close control over the development of all nuclear technologies.⁷ Thus, by a series of historical accidents, all of the major sources of ionising radiation fell under the purview of people and institutions who had no reason to want to explore the early knowledge that radiation was harmful.

In 1927, Hermann J. Muller had demonstrated that X-rays caused inheritable genetic damage, and he received a Nobel Prize for his efforts. However, he had performed his experiments on fruit flies and it was easy, or at least convenient, to dismiss his findings as irrelevant to humans.

In sum, to physicians, radiation seemed a promising new therapy for treating nearly every ailment under the Sun. For the military and the Joint Commission on Atomic Energy in Congress, it unleashed hundreds of billions of dollars—a veritable flood of taxpayer funds, most of which came with almost no oversight because of official secrecy surrounding weapons development. For private-sector government contractors like Union Carbide, Monsanto Chemical Co., General Electric, Bechtel Corporation, DuPont, Martin Marietta and others, it meant an opportunity to join the elite "military-industrial complex"—whose growing political

power President Eisenhower warned against in his final address to Congress in 1959.

Throughout the 1950s, the military detonated A-bombs above ground at the Nevada Test Site, showering downwind civilian populations with radioactivity.⁸ At the Hanford Reservation in Washington state, technicians intentionally released huge clouds of radioactivity to see what would happen to the human populations thus exposed. In one Hanford experiment, 500,000 curies of radioactive iodine were released; iodine collects in the human thyroid gland. The victims of this experiment, mostly Native Americans, were not told about it for 45 years.⁹ American sailors on ships and soldiers on the ground were exposed to large doses of radioactivity, just to see what would happen to them. The military brass insisted that being showered with radiation is harmless.

In his autobiography, Karl Z. Morgan, who served as Radiation Safety Director at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Clinton, Tennessee, from 1944 to 1971, recalls: "The Veterans Administration seems always on the defensive to make sure the victims are not compensated."¹⁰ Morgan recounts the story of

John D. Smitherman, a US Navy man who received large doses of radiation during A-bomb experiments on Bikini Atoll in 1946.¹¹

The Veterans Administration denied any connection to radiation exposure until 1988, when it had awarded his widow benefits. By the time of his death, Smitherman's body was almost consumed by cancers of the lung, bronchial lymph nodes, diaphragm, spleen, pancreas, intestines, stomach, liver, and adrenal glands. In 1989, a year after it had awarded the benefits, the VA revoked them from Smitherman's widow.

American sailors on ships and soldiers on the ground were exposed to large doses of radioactivity, just to see what would happen to them. The military brass insisted that being showered with radiation is harmless.

Starting in the 1940s and continuing into the 1960s, thousands of uranium miners were told that breathing radon gas in the uranium mines of New Mexico was perfectly safe. Only now are the radon-caused lung cancers being tallied up, as the truth leaks out 50 years too late.

In retrospect, a kind of nuclear mania swept the industrial world. What biotechnology and high-tech computers are today, atomic technology was in the 1950s and early 1960s. Government contractors spent billions to develop a nuclear-powered airplane, even though simple engineering calculations told them early in the project that such a plane would be too heavy to carry a useful cargo.¹² Monsanto Research Corporation proposed a plutonium-powered coffee pot that would boil water for 100 years without a refuelling.¹³ A Boston company proposed cufflinks made of radioactive uranium for the simple reason that uranium is heavier than lead and "the unusual weight prevents cuffs from riding up".¹⁴

In 1957, the Atomic Energy Commission established its Plowshare Division—named of course for the biblical "swords into plowshares [ploughshares]" phrasing in Isaiah (2:4).¹⁵ Our government and its industrial partners were determined to show the world that this technology was benign, no matter what the facts might be.

On July 14, 1958, Dr Edward Teller, "the Father of the H-bomb", arrived in Alaska to announce Project *Chariot*—a plan to carve a new harbour out of the Alaska coast by detonating up to

six H-bombs. After a tremendous political fight—documented in Dan O'Neill's book, *The Firecracker Boys*¹⁶—the plan was shelved. Another plan was developed to blast a new canal across Central America with atomic bombs, simply to give the US some leverage in negotiating with Panama over control of the Panama Canal. That plan, too, was scrapped.

In 1967, an A-bomb was detonated underground in New Mexico to release natural gas trapped in shale rock formations. Trapped gas was in fact released, but—as the project's engineers should have been able to predict—the gas turned out to be radioactive, so the hole in the ground was plugged and a bronze plaque in the desert is all that remains visible of Project *Gasbuggy*.¹⁷

In sum, according to *New York Times* columnist H. Peter Metzger, the Atomic Energy Commission wasted billions of dollars on "crackpot schemes", all for the purpose of proving that nuclear technology is beneficial and not in any way harmful.¹⁸

The Plowshare Division may have been a complete failure, but one lasting result emerged from all these efforts: a powerful culture of denial sank deep roots into the heart of scientific and industrial America.

RADIATION PROTECTION STANDARDS

By 1910, in addition to X-rays, the medical community was using radioactive radium extensively for therapy. Radium was also used industrially to make glow-in-the-dark watch dials, dolls' eyes, fish bait, gun sights and other items. However, in the mid-1920s, it became clear that many young women painting radium onto watch dials were dying. In one case the employer, US Radium, in West Orange, New Jersey, insisted the women were dying because of poor personal hygiene, but studies of the workplace concluded in 1924 and 1925 that all workers were being exposed to excessive radiation.

Thus humans learned by trial and error that alpha and gamma radiation from radium can be extremely dangerous, even in small quantities.

On December 2, 1942, the first human-created nuclear reactor began operating in a secret laboratory beneath the bleachers at Stagg Field, University of Chicago. The purpose of this reactor was, first, to demonstrate that nuclear fission could be achieved (and controlled), and second, to manufacture plutonium for a bomb. Dr Arthur Compton headed this *Manhattan Project*—the code name for the US effort to make an A-bomb.

At that time, the world inventory of radium totalled about two pounds. The nuclear reactors built in Chicago, then in Clinton, Tennessee, and Hanford, Washington, would hold inventories with the radioactive equivalent of thousands of tons of radium. Many of the radioactive elements in these nuclear reactors were new, with unknown characteristics.

Arthur Compton and his colleagues insisted that safety standards had to be developed to protect workers from the harms of radiation. Early in 1943, Compton hired a radiologist, a chemist and three physicists to set radiation safety standards and

to develop measuring equipment to assure that the standards were met. These five scientists were called *health physicists*—physicists concerned about health. To this day, scientists studying the health effects of radiation call themselves health physicists. X-ray specialists are called *radiologists*.

In September 1943, the initial group of health physicists moved to Clinton, Tennessee, where an enormous industrial facility was being built to process uranium; this became known as the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). In 1944, one of the original five health physicists—Karl Z. Morgan—was named Director of the Health Physics Division at Oak Ridge, a position he held for 29 years until 1972 when he reached retirement age.¹⁹

Morgan played a central role in the development of the health physics profession and in setting radiation standards worldwide. The Health Physics Society was organised in 1955 with Morgan as its president pro tem; he then served as the society's first elected president in 1956–57. From 1955 to 1977, Morgan served as editor-in-chief of the society's professional journal, *Health Physics*. In 1966 an International Radiation Protection Association was established, representing professionals in 30 countries, and Karl Morgan was elected its first president.

Most radiation standards are set by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), which in 1950 grew out of an earlier standards-setting group, the International X-ray and Radium Protection Committee. Karl Morgan served as one of the ICRP's 13 members from 1950 to 1971, and during that time he chaired the ICRP's committee on internal doses, setting radiation standards which were then adopted worldwide. It seems clear why Karl Morgan is often described as "the Father of Health Physics".

EXCESSIVE X-RAY EXPOSURE

In recent years, Karl Morgan has described and criticised the work of the ICRP. Morgan says the ICRP has suffered from two major blind spots: the Committee has never focused on harm to the public from excessive exposure to medical X-rays, and by the mid-1960s the ICRP began setting standards for radioactivity that protected the nuclear industry rather than the public. According to Morgan (who is still an emeritus member of the ICRP), the ICRP began ignoring serious radiation hazards in the early 1960s. He writes:²⁰

The period of atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons by the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the USSR is a sad page in the history of civilised man. Without question, it was the cause of hundreds of thousands of cancer deaths. Yet there was complete silence on the part of the ICRP. During these years (1960–1965), most members of the ICRP either worked directly with the nuclear weapons industry or indirectly received most of their funding for their research from this industry. Perhaps they were reluctant to bite the hand that feeds them?

In the 1970s, the situation grew worse after a series of studies revealed that radiation was even more dangerous than previously believed. In 1974, Baruch Modan showed that a woman's chances

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of breast cancer were increased by X-ray doses as low as 1.6 rem.²¹ In 1977, Thomas Mancuso and others reported that workers at the Hanford plutonium facility were dying of cancers from radiation doses as low as 3 rem, accumulated over many years.²² (The worker safety standard at the time was 5 rem per year.)

Karl Morgan says these studies threw the nuclear industry into a panic. "Concerned that its very existence was threatened if the public believed that there was an increased risk of cancer at these low levels of exposure, the nuclear-industrial complex determined that it would respond vigorously to all challengers," Morgan reports in his autobiography.²³ As a result, "...health physics in recent decades has sacrificed its integrity. Certainly there remain some true professionals who will not shade the truth to appease their employers, but they are in the minority," Morgan said in 1999.²⁴

The ICRP turned a blind eye to other problems affecting public health: excessive exposures from medical and dental X-rays. Early in the 1950s, a series of studies had shown that X-rays were more dangerous than previously known. In 1950, H.C. March showed that radiologists were nine times as likely as other physicians to die of leukaemia.²⁵ In 1956, Alice Stewart showed that a single X-ray of a foetus in the womb would double the likelihood of childhood leukaemia.²⁶

In his 1999 autobiography,²⁷ Morgan refers to his 1994 description of the ICRP's failure to concern itself with excessive and unnecessary X-ray exposures from diagnostic procedures:²⁸

...it was like running into a brick wall every time I raised the question of excessive and unnecessary X-ray diagnostic exposures... I soon became convinced that the subject of excessive medical exposure was a no-no with ICRP because ICRP was founded under the auspices of the International Congress of Radiology (ICR) and radiologists did not want any restraints or interference in their use of diagnostic X-rays. I had the uncomfortable feeling that there was a serious conflict of interest with ICR sponsorship of ICRP... Conflict of interest seems to be a contagious and virulent disease.

In the mid-1960s, Morgan's division of the Oak Ridge Laboratory studied the X-ray doses being received by US children as a result of a mass chest X-ray program. Starting in the 1950s, portable X-ray machines in special trucks were brought to schools, and hundreds of thousands of US children were given chest X-rays. The Oak Ridge study found that each of these children was receiving an X-ray dose of 2 to 3 rem; Morgan knew this was excessive because workers at the Oak Ridge Laboratory were getting a dose of only 0.015 rem from a chest X-ray. In other words, children were getting a dose of X-rays 130 to 200 times as high as the dose needed to produce an adequate X-ray film—not to mention that most of the children did not need a chest X-ray at all. (The mass X-raying of US children was stopped by a campaign led by Morgan, Rosalie Bertell, Irwin Bross and others.)²⁹

In the 1940s and 1950s, many shoe stores installed fluoroscopic (X-ray) shoe-fitting machines. By 1949, a study had shown that shoe-fitting machines were giving children high doses of radiation. Again, the ICRP showed no interest in the subject.

Morgan and his colleagues calculated that medical X-rays accounted for 90 per cent of all radiation from human-created sources.^{30,31} Morgan showed in 1963 that the average US citizen was receiving each year about as much radiation from medical X-rays as from natural background sources. In other words, the use of medical X-rays was doubling the average person's exposure to radiation in the US. Morgan's point was that the same benefits could be achieved at much lower doses by using up-to-date equipment and techniques. The medical community, for the most part, turned a deaf ear.

For many years, Morgan and others wrote about the hazards of excessive and unnecessary radiation exposures from medicine and dentistry—an effort he describes as "twenty years of frustrating failures". In his autobiography, Morgan says it was "a highlight of my life's work"³² when President Lyndon Johnson signed Public Law 90-602, the "Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act of 1968", which set minimum federal standards for X-ray equipment (see www.fda.gov/cdrh/radhlth/-summary.html). However, the law can do nothing to curb unnecessary and excessive X-ray exposures, which still occur routinely.

Gofman believes that medical X-rays are the major cause of cancer (including breast cancer) and heart disease in the US.

Gofman's work is careful, thorough and clearly written, so most of the health physicists of this world probably cannot be expected to take it lying down.

MEDICAL X-RAYS, CANCER AND HEART DISEASE

For the past 20 years, another important scientist concerned about excessive exposure to X-rays has been Dr John Gofman. In his autobiography, Morgan describes Gofman this way:³³

...John Gofman, a scientist who [holds] degrees in both chemistry and medicine. Along with Glenn Seaborg, Gofman co-discovered uranium-233, and he also was the first one to isolate plutonium. In spite of these achievements, Gofman has yet to receive the recognition due him; in my

opinion, he is one of the leading scientists of the twentieth century.

For 20 years or more, Gofman has been publishing studies of the hazards of low-level radiation. His latest book fills 700 pages addressing this hypothesis: "Medical radiation is a highly important cause (probably the principal cause) of cancer mortality in the United States during the twentieth century."³⁴ In other words, Gofman believes that medical X-rays are the major cause of cancer (including breast cancer) and heart disease in the US. Gofman's work is careful, thorough and clearly written, so most of the health physicists of this world probably cannot be expected to take it lying down.

John Gofman is a medical doctor with a PhD in nuclear and physical chemistry. He is Professor Emeritus of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the faculty at the University of California Medical School at San Francisco. During his long career, he has pursued two separate fields of research: heart disease, and the health

effects of low-level radiation. He has won several awards for original research into the causes of atherosclerosis, which is the growth of fatty "plaque" inside the blood vessels, often causing fatal heart attacks. In 1974, the American College of Cardiology selected him as one of the 25 leading researchers in cardiology of the past quarter-century.

In the early 1960s, the US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) asked Gofman to develop a Biomedical Research Division at the AEC's Livermore National Laboratory (LNL), to evaluate the health effects of all types of nuclear activities. In 1970, he became convinced that radiation was more dangerous than previously believed, and he spoke out against Project *Plowshare* (the AEC's plan to explode hundreds of nuclear weapons to release gas trapped in rock beneath the Rocky Mountains and to excavate new harbours and canals by exploding nuclear bombs above ground). He also called for a five-year moratorium on the AEC's plan to develop 1,000 commercial nuclear power plants.

By 1974, Gofman's government funding was cut. He then began a series of books on the dangers of radiation: *Radiation and Human Health* (1981); *X-Rays: Health Effects of Common Exams* (1985); *Radiation-induced Cancer From Low-Dose Exposure: An Independent Analysis* (1990); *Preventing Breast Cancer: The Story of a Major, Proven, Preventable Cause of This Disease* (1995, 2nd ed. 1996); and *Radiation from Medical Procedures in the Pathogenesis of Cancer and Ischemic Heart Disease* (1999).^{35, 36, 37, 38, 39}

Gofman is a superb teacher. In his books, he explains the raw data, where it came from, its shortcomings, how it might be improved (or why we're stuck with what we've got). Then he moves the reader step by step towards his conclusions, explaining each step for the novice as well as the expert. When he is forced to make assumptions, he explains why he thinks he is making the right ones.

He often describes alternative assumptions and the effect they would have on his conclusions. Nothing of importance is omitted. As a result, Gofman's books are lengthy—typically 500 to 900 pages filled with tables of data accompanied by detailed explanations. The reader gets a thorough education in the topic, satisfactory for both novice and professional. I consider Gofman one of the greatest teachers of the 20th century. His work has already changed the way the world views the dangers of radiation, and his latest book will—eventually, after a long fight—revolutionise the way the world looks at medical radiation. His work will save, cumulatively, tens of millions of lives.

In his latest (1999) book, Gofman presents strong evidence that medical radiation is a major cause of cancer *and* of atherosclerosis (coronary heart disease).⁴⁰ By "medical radiation", Dr Gofman is referring mainly to X-rays, including fluoroscopy and CT ("CAT") scans. The mechanism is simple to state: radiation causes genetic mutations which eventually give rise to disease.

What is Gofman saying? Does he mean that medical radiation is necessarily the *only* cause of cancer and coronary heart disease? Certainly not. Does he mean that cancer is *not* caused by smoking, poor diet, genetic inheritance, pesticides, diesel exhaust, dioxin and toxic chemicals encountered on the job? Certainly not. Cancer and heart disease both have multiple causes. For a cancer (or an atherosclerotic plaque) to develop, a cell must undergo

several (probably 5 to 10) separate gene mutations. Some of these mutations might be inherited, but most occur from exposure to gene-damaging substances in the environment.

Here is a way to understand multiple causation. Gofman gives the following hypothetical example of 100 cases of cancer:

- 40 cancers caused by co-action of X-rays + smoking + poor diet;
- 25 cancers caused by co-action of X-rays + poor diet + inherited genetic mutations;
- 25 cancers caused by co-action of X-rays + smoking + inherited genetic mutations;
- 10 cancers caused by co-action of smoking + poor diet + inherited genetic mutations.

In the first case, the 40 cancers are caused by genetic mutations that are, in turn, caused by X-rays, smoking and poor diet. Each of these three factors is necessary for the cancer to occur; if any one of the three factors is missing, the cancer will not occur.

We can see in this example that X-rays contribute to $40 + 25 + 25 = 90$ cases out of 100. In this example, if X-rays were not present, 90% of the cancers would not occur. Now, in the same example, look at poor diet. Poor diet contributes to $40 + 25 + 10 = 75$ of the 100 cases. If poor diet were not present, 75% of the cancers in this example would not occur.

We can see in this example that we have X-rays "causing" 90% of the cancers—"causing" in the sense that the cancers wouldn't occur in the absence of X-rays. But we also have poor diet "causing" 75% of the same cancers, meaning that 75% of the cancers wouldn't occur in the absence of poor diet.

Thus we can see that when Gofman says X-rays are responsible for a large proportion of all cancers in the US, he is *not* saying that X-rays are the *only* cause of those cancers. However, he *is* saying that most of those cancers would not

occur in the absence of X-rays.

It is important to point out that Gofman is not opposed to medical X-rays. Rather, he is opposed to *unnecessary exposures* from X-rays. He has shown over the years—and he is definitely not alone in this—that medical X-ray exposures in the US could be cut by at least 50% with no loss of medical information. The careful use of modern X-ray equipment and techniques can reduce X-ray exposures by half (or more) without sacrificing any medical benefits. Thus, at least half the cancers caused by medical X-rays are completely unnecessary.

How many unnecessary cancers are we talking about? Gofman calculates that in 1993, 50% of all cancers in women and 74% of all cancers in men were attributable to X-rays. In other words, about 60% of all cancers in the US in 1993 were attributable to X-rays. About 500,000 people die of cancer each year in the US. If 60% of these deaths are attributable to X-rays and half are unnecessary, we are talking about 150,000 unnecessary cancer deaths each year in the US.

Gofman calculates that the proportion of coronary heart disease (CHD) attributable to X-rays is slightly higher than the proportion of cancers. Among men in 1993, 63% of CHD deaths were attributable to X-rays, and 78% among women. So, in rough numbers, 70% of CHD deaths are attributable to X-rays, Gofman believes. Since CHD caused roughly 460,000 deaths in the US in

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In other words, about 60% of all cancers in the US in 1993 were attributable to X-rays.

1993, then, if Gofman is right, 70% (or 322,000) of these deaths are attributable to X-rays and half of these (or 161,000) are unnecessary.

Thus we can see that X-rays are responsible for about 150,000 + 161,000 = 311,000 unnecessary deaths each year in the US, if Gofman is right.

Gofman's study takes a novel approach, avoiding certain difficulties inherent in all data linking medical radiation to health. Here are the difficulties. Firstly, there are no reliable estimates of the average per-capita radiation dose that the US population receives now, or has received in the past, from medical X-rays. (Gofman explains why in chapter 2.) Secondly, there are no reliable estimates of the cancer risk per unit dose from medical X-rays because no one is sure of the precise exposures received by various groups that have been studied for cancer effects. (Again, see Gofman's chapter 2.)

Avoiding these difficulties, Gofman developed a novel approach. He found disease statistics for the entire US population, broken down into nine census districts (1940 to 1990 for cancer, and 1950 to 1990 for coronary heart disease). Then he correlated these disease statistics, year by year, to the number of physicians per 100,000 population in each of the nine census districts. The density of physicians per 100,000 population provides a *relative* measure of the medical radiation per 100,000 population in the nine districts, year by year.

Gofman has shown that cancer death rates *rise* in lock-step with increasing density of physicians in a census district, while non-cancer deaths *decline* in lock-step with increasing density of physicians per 100,000 population, *except* in the case of coronary heart disease (CHD) which follows the rising pattern of cancer. Thus, Gofman's hypothesis, that CHD is linked to medical

radiation, "fell out of the data". Because he had decades of experience researching the causes of CHD (he has written three books on heart disease), and because he knows the radiation literature so well, Gofman was able to put two and two together: radiation induces mutations in the coronary arteries, giving rise to what he calls "dysfunctional clones" (mini-tumours) in the smooth muscle lining the arteries.

Interestingly, using his "physician density" method, Gofman estimates that medical radiation caused 83% of female breast cancer in the US in 1993. Using a completely different method, Gofman estimated in 1995 that medical radiation was responsible for 75% of US breast cancer. The two estimates, by two completely different methods, are remarkably similar.

MINIMISING X-RAY EXPOSURE

It will not be easy to convince physicians to take special care to minimise radiation administered to their patients. Familiarity breeds contempt, and many physicians and dentists treat X-rays as if they are entirely harmless.

Recently I broke a tooth. My dentist, who is first rate, needed to document the injury for insurance purposes. "I'll just snap an X-ray," he said. I asked, "Is there some other way?" He nodded and immediately scribbled a note: "I broke my tooth and I don't want an X-ray." "Sign this," he said. "The insurance company is required to accept it." One unnecessary X-ray avoided.

Next time someone says they're going to give you an X-ray, don't put them on the spot but mention that you're curious what dose of radiation you will get. If your experience is anything like mine, the person giving the X-ray will not know the answer and will tell you: "Don't worry. It's completely safe."

But it's not.

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EXCITOTOXINS

— DANGEROUS FOOD ADDITIVES —

Powerful excitotoxins like MSG and aspartame, found in processed foods, can bypass the blood-brain barrier, injuring the brain and exacerbating existing disease conditions.

Part 2 of 2

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EXCITOTOXINS AND THE BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER

One of the MSG industry's chief arguments for the safety of its product is that glutamate in the blood cannot enter the brain because of the blood-brain barrier (BBB)—a system of specialised capillary structures designed to exclude toxic substances from entering the brain.

There are several criticisms of its defence. For example, it is known that the brain, even in the adult, has several areas—the circumventricular organs—that normally do not have a barrier system. These include the hypothalamus, the subfornical organ, organum vasculosum, area postrema, pineal gland and the subcommissural organ. Of these, the most important is the hypothalamus, since it is the controlling centre for all neuroendocrine regulation, sleep/wake cycles, emotional control, caloric intake regulation, and immune system and autonomic nervous system regulation.

As stated, glutamate is the most important neurotransmitter in the hypothalamus. Therefore, careful regulation of blood levels of glutamate is very important, since high blood concentrations of glutamate would be expected to increase hypothalamic levels as well. One of the earliest and most consistent findings with exposure to MSG is damage to an area of the hypothalamus known as the arcuate nucleus. This small hypothalamic nucleus controls a multitude of neuroendocrine functions and is also intimately connected to several other hypothalamic nuclei. It has also been demonstrated that high concentrations of blood glutamate and aspartate (from foods) can enter the so-called "protected brain" by seeping through the unprotected areas such as the hypothalamus or other circumventricular organs.

Another interesting observation is that chronic elevations of blood glutamate can even seep through the normal blood-brain barrier when these high concentrations are maintained over a long period of time.⁴⁴ This would be the situation seen when individuals consume, on a daily basis, foods high in the excitotoxins MSG, aspartame and L-cysteine. Most experiments cited by the defenders of MSG safety were conducted to test the efficiency of the BBB acutely. In nature, except in the case of metabolic dysfunction (such as with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), glutamate and aspartate levels are not normally elevated on a continuous basis. Sustained elevations of these excitotoxins are peculiar to the modern diet (and in the ancient diets of Orientals, but not in as high a concentration).

An additional critical factor ignored by the defenders of excitotoxin food safety is the fact that many people in a large population have disorders known to alter the permeability of the blood-brain barrier. Conditions associated with barrier disruption include hypertension, diabetes, mini stroke, major stroke, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, brain infection, brain tumour, collagen-vascular disease (e.g., lupus), AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, as well as the effects of certain drugs, chemotherapy, radiation treatments to the nervous system and natural ageing. There may be many other conditions also associated with barrier disruption that are as yet not known. When the barrier is dysfunctional due to one of these conditions, brain levels of glutamate and aspartate reflect blood levels; that is, foods containing high concentrations of these excitotoxins will increase brain concentrations to toxic levels as well.

Take, for example, multiple sclerosis (MS). We know that when a person with MS has an exacerbation of symptoms, the blood-brain barrier near the lesions breaks down, leaving the surrounding brain vulnerable to excitotoxin entry from the blood, i.e., from the diet.⁴⁵ However, not only is the adjacent brain vulnerable, but the openings act as points of entry, eventually exposing the entire brain to potentially toxic levels of glutamate.

Several clinicians have remarked that their MS patients' conditions were made worse following exposure to dietary excitotoxins. I have seen this myself. It is logical to assume that the conditions of patients with other neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and ALS, will be made worse on diets high in excitotoxins. Barrier disruption has been demonstrated in the case of Alzheimer's disease.⁴⁶

Recently it was shown that not only can free radicals open the blood-brain barrier, but excitotoxins can as well.⁴⁷ In fact, glutamate receptors have been demonstrated on the barrier itself.⁴⁸ In a carefully designed experiment, researchers produced opening of the blood-brain barrier using injected iron as a free radical generator. When a powerful free radical scavenger (U-74006F) was used in this model, opening of the barrier was significantly blocked, but the glutamate blocker (MK-801) acted even more effectively to protect the barrier. The authors of this study concluded that glutamate appears to be an important regulator of brain capillary transport and stability, and that overstimulation of NMDA (glutamate) receptors on the blood-brain barrier appears to play an important role in breakdown of the barrier system. What this also means is that high levels of dietary glutamate or aspartate may very well disrupt the normal blood-brain barrier, thus allowing more glutamate to enter the brain, creating a vicious cycle.

CELLULAR ENERGY

Excitotoxin damage is heavily dependent on the energy state of the cell.⁴⁹ Cells with a normal energy generation system are very resistant to such toxicity. When cells are energy deficient, no matter the cause—hypoxia, starvation, metabolic poisons, hypoglycaemia—they become infinitely more susceptible to excitotoxic injury or death. Even normal concentrations of glutamate are toxic to energy-deficient cells.

It is known that in many of the neurodegenerative disorders, neuron energy deficiency often precedes the clinical onset of the disease by years, if not decades.⁵⁰ This was demonstrated in the case of Huntington's disease and Alzheimer's disease, using the PET scanner which measures brain metabolism. In the case of Parkinson's disease, several groups demonstrated that one of the early deficits of the disorder is an impaired energy production by the complex I group of enzymes within the mitochondria of the substantia nigra.^{51,52} Interestingly, it is known that the complex I system is very sensitive to free radical damage.

Recently it was shown that when striatal neurons are exposed to micro-injected excitotoxins, there is a dramatic and rapid fall in energy production by these neurons. In this model, co-enzyme Q10 was shown to restore energy production but not to prevent cellular death. But, when combined with niacinamide, both cellular energy production and neuron protection was seen.⁵³ For those with neurodegenerative disorders, I recommend a combination of CoQ10, acetyl-L carnitine, niacinamide, riboflavin, methylcobalamin and thiamine.

One of the newer revelations of modern molecular biology is the discovery of mitochondrial diseases, of which cellular energy deficiency is a hallmark. In many of these disorders, significant clinical improvement is seen following a similar regimen of vitamins combined with CoQ10 and L-carnitine.⁵⁴ Acetyl L-carnitine

enters the brain in higher concentrations and also increases brain acetylcholine, necessary for normal memory function. While these particular substances are found to boost brain energy function significantly, they are not alone in this important property. Phosphotidyl serine, ginkgo biloba, vitamin B12, folate, magnesium, vitamin K and several other substances are also shown to be important.

While mitochondrial dysfunction is important in explaining why some people are more vulnerable to excitotoxin damage than others, it does not explain injury in those with normal cellular metabolism. There are several conditions under which energy metabolism is impaired. We know, for example, that approximately one-third of Americans suffer from reactive hypoglycaemia; that is, they respond to a meal composed of either simple sugars or carbohydrates (that are quickly broken down into simple sugars, i.e., a high glycaemic index) by secreting excessive amounts of insulin, which causes a dramatic lowering of the blood sugar. When the blood sugar level falls, the body responds by releasing a burst of epinephrine from the adrenal glands in an effort to raise the blood sugar. This release is felt as nervousness, palpitations of the heart, tremulousness and profuse sweating.

Occasionally we can have a slower fall in the blood sugar that will not produce a reactive release of epinephrine, thereby producing few symptoms. This can be more dangerous, since we are unaware that our glucose reserve is falling until we develop obvious neurological symptoms, such as difficulty thinking and a sensation of lightheadedness.

The brain is one of the most glucose-dependent organs known, since it has a limited ability to metabolise other substrates such as fats. There is some evidence that several of the neurodegenerative

diseases are related to either excessive insulin release, as with Alzheimer's disease, or impaired glucose utilisation, as we have seen in the case of Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease.⁵⁵

It is my firm belief, based on clinical experience and physiological principles, that many of these diseases occur primarily in the face of either reactive hypoglycaemia or "brain hypoglycaemia", a condition where the blood sugar is normal and the brain is hypoglycaemic in isolation. In at least two well-conducted studies, it was found that pure Alzheimer's dementia was rare in those with normal blood sugar profiles, and that in most cases Alzheimer's patients had low blood sugar and high CSF (cerebrospinal fluid) insulin levels.^{56,57} In my own limited experience with Parkinson's and ALS patients, I found a disproportionately high number suffering from reactive hypoglycaemia.

I find it interesting that several ALS patients observed an association between their symptoms and gluten: when they adhered to a gluten-free diet, their clinical symptoms improved. It may be that by avoiding gluten-containing products, such as bread, crackers, cereal, pasta, etc., they are also avoiding products that are high on the glycaemic index, i.e., that produce reactive hypoglycaemia. Also, all of these food items are high in free iron. Clinically, hypoglycaemia worsens the symptoms of most neurological disorders. We know that severe hypoglycaemia can in fact mimic ALS both clinically and pathologically.⁵⁸ It is also known that many of the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease resemble hypoglycaemia, as if the brain is hypoglycaemic in isolation.

Recently it was shown that not only can free radicals open the blood-brain barrier, but excitotoxins can as well. In fact, glutamate receptors have been demonstrated on the barrier itself.

In studies of animals exposed to repeated, mild episodes of hypoxia (lack of brain oxygenation), it was found that such accumulated injuries can trigger biochemical changes that resemble those seen in Alzheimer's patients.⁵⁹ One of the effects of hypoxia is a massive release of glutamate into the space around the neuron, which results in the rapid death of these sensitised cells. As we age, the blood supply to the brain is frequently impaired, either because of atherosclerosis or repeated syncopal episodes, leading to short periods of hypoxia. Hypoglycaemia produces lesions very similar to hypoxia and via the same glutamate excitotoxic mechanism. In fact, recent studies of diabetics suffering from repeated episodes of hypoglycaemia associated with insulin overmedication have demonstrated brain atrophy and dementia.⁶⁰

Another cause of isolated cerebral hypoglycaemia is the impaired transport of glucose into the brain across the blood-brain barrier. It is known that glucose enters the brain by way of a glucose transporter, and that in several conditions, including arteriosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and ageing, this transporter is impaired.^{61, 62} This is especially important in the diabetic, since prolonged elevation of the blood sugar produces a down-regulation of the glucose transporter and a concomitant brain hypoglycaemia that is exacerbated by repeated spells of peripheral hypoglycaemia common to type-I diabetics.

With ageing, we see several of these energy deficiency syndromes, such as mitochondrial injury, impaired cerebral blood flow, enzyme dysfunction and impaired glucose transportation, develop simultaneously. This greatly magnifies excitotoxicity, leading to accelerated free radical injury, a progressively rapid loss of cerebral function and profound changes in cellular energy production.⁶³ It is suspected that at least in some of the neurodegenerative diseases (in particular, Alzheimer's dementia and Parkinson's disease), this series of events plays a major pathogenic role.⁶⁴ Chronic free radical accumulation also results in an impaired functional reserve of antioxidant vitamins/minerals, antioxidant enzymes (superoxide dismutase or SOD, catalase and glutathione peroxidase) and thiol compounds necessary for neural protection. Chronic unrelieved stress, chronic infection, free radical generating metals and toxins, and impaired DNA repair enzymes all add to this damage.

It is estimated that oxidative free radical injuries to DNA number about 10,000 a day in humans.⁶⁵ Under conditions of cellular stress, these may reach several hundred thousand. Normally, these injuries are repaired by special DNA repair enzymes. It is known that these repair enzymes decrease in number or become less efficient as we age.⁶⁶ Also, some individuals are born with deficient repair enzymes, as in the case of xeroderma pigmentosum, for example. Recent studies of Alzheimer's patients also demonstrate a significant deficiency in DNA repair enzymes and high levels of lipid peroxidation products in the affected parts of the brain.^{67, 68} It is important to realise that the hippocampus, most severely damaged in Alzheimer's dementia, is one of the areas of the brain most vulnerable to low glucose supply as well as low oxygen supply. That also makes it very susceptible to glutamate/free-radical toxicity.

Another interesting finding is that when cells are exposed to glutamate, they develop certain inclusions (cellular debris) which

not only resemble the characteristic neurofibrillary tangles of Alzheimer's dementia but are immunologically identical as well.⁶⁹ Similarly, when experimental animals are exposed to the chemical MPTP they develop Parkinson's disorder; in fact, the older animals develop the same inclusions (Lewy bodies) as seen in human Parkinson's.⁷⁰ There is growing evidence that protracted glutamate toxicity leads to a condition of receptor loss characteristic of neurodegeneration.⁷¹ This receptor loss produces a state of disinhibition which magnifies excitotoxicity during the later stage of the neurodegenerative process.

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS OF ASCORBIC ACID

The brain contains one of the highest concentrations of ascorbic acid in the body. Most are aware of ascorbic acid's function in connective tissue synthesis and as a free radical scavenger, but it has other functions that make it rather unique.

In man, we know that certain areas of the brain have very high concentrations of ascorbic acid, such as the nucleus accumbens

and hippocampus. The lowest levels are seen in the substantia nigra.⁷²

These levels seem to fluctuate with the electrical activity of the brain. Amphetamine acts to increase ascorbic acid concentration in the corpus striatum (basal ganglion area) and decrease it in the hippocampus, the memory imprint area of the brain. Ascorbic acid is known to play a vital role in dopamine production as well.

One of the more interesting links is between the secretion of the glutamate neurotransmitter by the brain and the release of ascorbic acid into

the extracellular space.⁷³ This release of ascorbate can also be induced by systemic administration of glutamate or aspartate, as would be seen in diets high in these excitotoxins. The other neurotransmitters do not have a similar effect on ascorbic acid release. This effect appears to be an exchange mechanism; that is, the ascorbic acid and glutamate exchange places. Theoretically, high concentration of ascorbic acid in the diet could inhibit glutamate release, lessening the risk of excitotoxic damage. Of equal importance is the free radical neutralising effect of ascorbic acid.

There is now substantial evidence that ascorbic acid modulates the electrophysiological as well as behavioural functioning of the brain.⁷⁴ It also attenuates the behavioural response of rats exposed to amphetamine, which is known to act through an excitatory mechanism.⁷⁵ In part, this is due to the observed binding of ascorbic acid to the glutamate receptor. This could mean that ascorbic acid holds great potential in treating disease related to excitotoxic damage. Thus far, there are no studies relating ascorbate metabolism in neurodegenerative diseases. There is at least one report of ascorbic acid deficiency in guinea pigs producing histopathological changes similar to ALS.⁷⁶

It is known that as we age there is a decline in brain levels of ascorbate. When accompanied by a similar decrease in glutathione peroxidase, we see an accumulation of H₂O₂ and, hence, elevated levels of free radicals and lipid peroxidation. In one study it was found that, with age, not only does the extracellular concentration of ascorbic acid decrease but the capacity of the brain ascorbic acid system to respond to oxidative stress is impaired as well.⁷⁷

In terms of its antioxidant activity, vitamins C and E interact in

There is now substantial evidence that ascorbic acid modulates the electrophysiological as well as behavioural functioning of the brain. This could mean that ascorbic acid holds great potential in treating disease related to excitotoxic damage.

such a way as to restore each other's active antioxidant state. Vitamin C scavenges oxygen radicals in the aqueous phase and vitamin E in the lipid, chain-breaking phase. The addition of vitamin C suppresses the oxidative consumption of vitamin E almost totally, probably because in the living organism the vitamin C in the aqueous phase is adjacent to the lipid membrane layer containing the vitamin E.

When combined, the vitamin C is consumed faster during oxidative stress than is vitamin E. Once the vitamin C is totally consumed, vitamin E begins to be depleted at an accelerated rate. N-acetyl-L-cysteine and glutathione can reduce vitamin E consumption as well, but less effectively than vitamin C.

The real danger is when vitamin C is combined with iron. This is because the free iron oxidises the ascorbate to produce the free radical, dehydroxyascorbate. Alpha-lipoic acid acts powerfully to keep the ascorbate and tocopherol in the reduced state (antioxidant state). As we age, we produce less of the transferrin transport protein that normally binds free iron. As a result, older individuals have higher levels of free iron within their tissues, including brain, and are therefore at greater risk of widespread free radical injury.

IMPLICATIONS FOR NEURODEVELOPMENT

Recent studies have shown that glutamate plays a vital role in the development of the nervous system, especially as regards neuronal survival, growth and differentiation, development of circuits and cytoarchitecture.⁷⁸

For example, it is known that deficiencies of glutamate in the brain during neurogenesis can result in maldevelopment of the visual cortices and may play a role in the development of schizophrenia.⁷⁹ Likewise, excess glutamate can cause neural pathways to produce improper connections—a process I call "miswiring of the brain". Excess glutamate during embryogenesis has been shown to reduce dendritic length and suppress axonal outgrowth

in hippocampal neurons. It is interesting to note that glutamate can produce classic toxicity in the immature brain, even before the glutamate receptors develop. High glutamate levels can also affect astroglial proliferation as well as neuronal differentiation. It appears to act via the phosphoinositide protein kinase C pathway.

It has been shown that during brain development there is an overgrowth of neuronal connections and cellularity, and that at this stage there is a peak in levels of brain glutamate, whose function it is to remove excess connections and neuronal overexpression. This has been referred to as "pruning". Importantly, glutamate excess during synaptogenesis and

pathway development has been shown to cause abnormal connections in the hypothalamus that can lead to later endocrinopathies.⁸⁰

In general, toxicological injury in the developing foetus carries the greatest risk during the first two trimesters. But this is not so for the brain, which undergoes a spurt of growth that begins during the third trimester and continues at least two years after birth. Dendritic growth is maximal in the late foetal period to one year of age, but may continue at a slower pace for several more years.

Neurotransmitter development also begins during the late foetal period, but continues for as long as four years after birth. This means that alterations in dietary glutamate and aspartate are especially dangerous to the foetus during pregnancy and for several years after birth.

The developing brain's susceptibility to excitotoxicity varies, since each brain region has a distinct developmental profile. The type of excitotoxin also appears to matter. For example, kainate is non-toxic to the immature brain but extremely toxic to the mature brain. The glutamate agonist NMDA is especially toxic up to postnatal day seven, while quisqualate and AMPA have peak toxicity from postnatal day seven through fourteen. L-cysteine is a powerful excitotoxin on the immature brain.

Myelination can also be affected by neurotoxins. In general,

Likewise, excess glutamate can cause neural pathways to produce improper connections—a process I call "miswiring of the brain".

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excitotoxic substances affect dendrites and neurons more than axons, but axon demyelination has been demonstrated. During the myelination process, each fibre tract has its own spatiotemporal pattern of development, accompanied by significant biochemical changes especially in lipid metabolism.

More recent studies have shown an even more complicated pattern of CNS myelination than previously thought. This is of importance, especially as regards the widespread use of aspartame because of this triple toxin's effects on neuronal proteins and DNA. Of special concern is aspartame's methanol component and its breakdown product, formaldehyde.⁸¹ Also, it is known that the aspartate moiety undergoes spontaneous racemisation in hot liquids to form D-aspartate, which has been associated with tau proteins in Alzheimer's disease.^{82, 83}

As you can see, the development of the brain is a very complex process that occurs in a spatial and temporal sequence that is carefully controlled by biochemical, structural as well as neurophysiological events. Even subtle changes in these parameters can produce ultimate changes in brain function that may vary from subtle alteration in behaviour and learning to autism, attention deficit disorder and violence dyscontrol.^{84, 85, 86}

Experiments in which infant animals were exposed to MSG have demonstrated significant neurobehavioural deficits.^{87, 88} Other studies have shown that when pregnant female animals were fed MSG, their offspring demonstrated normal, simple learning but showed significant deficits in complex learning, accompanied by profound reductions in several forebrain neurotransmitters.^{89, 90} In humans, this would mean that during infancy and early adolescence, learning would appear normal; but with entry into a more advanced education level, learning would be significantly impaired. In several ways, this animal model resembles ADD and ADHD in humans. Kubo and co-workers found that neonatal glutamate could severely injure hippocampal CA1 neurons and dendrites and, as a result, impair discriminative learning in rats.⁹¹

It is also important to note that neonatal exposure to MSG has been shown to cause significant alterations in neuroendocrine function that can be prolonged.^{92, 93} By acting on the hypothalamus and its connections to the remainder of the limbic connections, excitotoxins can profoundly affect behaviour.

CONCLUSION: PREVENTING EXCITOTOXIC INJURY

In this brief discussion of a most complicated and evolving subject, I have had to omit several important pieces of the puzzle. For example, I have said little about the functional components of

the receptor systems, the glutamate transporter and its relation to ALS and Alzheimer's dementia, receptor decay with ageing and disease, membrane effects of lipid peroxidation products, membrane fluidity, effects of chronic inflammation on the glutamate/free-radical cycle, stress hormones and excitotoxicity, the role of insulin excess on the eicosanoid system, and the detailed physiology of the glutamatergic system.

I have also only briefly alluded to the toxicity of aspartame and omitted its strong connection to brain tumour induction.

I have tried to show the reader that there is a strong connection between dietary and endogenous excitotoxin excess and neurological dysfunction and disease. Many of the arguments by the food processing industry have been shown to be false. For example, that dietary glutamate does not enter the brain because of exclusion by the blood-brain barrier has been shown to be wrong, since glutamate can enter by way of the unprotected areas of the brain, such as the circumventricular organs. Also, as we have seen, chronic elevations of blood glutamate can breach the intact blood-brain barrier. In addition, there are numerous conditions under which the barrier is made incompetent.

As our knowledge of the pathophysiology and biochemistry of the neurodegenerative diseases increases, the connection to excitotoxicity has become stronger.⁹⁴ This is especially so with the interrelationship between excitotoxicity and free radical

I have also only briefly alluded to the toxicity of aspartame and omitted its strong connection to brain tumour induction.

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generation and declining energy production with ageing. Several factors of ageing have been shown to magnify this process. For example, as the brain ages, its iron content increases, making it more susceptible to free radical generation. Also, ageing changes in the blood-brain barrier, microvascular changes leading to impaired blood flow, free radical mitochondrial injury to energy-generating enzymes, DNA adduct formation, alterations in glucose and glutamate transporters, and free radical and lipid peroxidation induced alterations in the neuronal membranes all act to make the ageing brain increasingly susceptible to excitotoxic injury.

Over a lifetime of free radical injury due to chronic stress, infections, trauma, impaired blood flow, hypoglycaemia, hypoxia and poor antioxidant defences secondary to poor nutritional intake, the nervous system is significantly weakened and made more susceptible to further excitotoxic injury. We know that a loss of neuronal energy generation is one of the early changes seen with the neurodegenerative diseases. This occurs long before clinical disease develops. But, even earlier is a loss of neuronal glutathione functional levels.

I included the material about the special function of ascorbic acid because few are aware of the importance of adequate ascorbate levels for CNS function and neural protection against excitotoxicity. As we have seen, it plays a vital role in neurobehavioural regulation and the dopaminergic system as well, which may link ascorbate supplementation to improvements in schizophrenia.

Our knowledge of this process opens up new avenues for treatment as well as prevention of excitotoxic injury to the nervous system. For example, there are many nutritional ways to improve CNS antioxidant defences and boost neuronal energy generation, as well as improve membrane fluidity and receptor integrity. By using selective glutamate-blocking drugs or nutrients, one may be able to alter some of the more devastating effects of Parkinson's

disease. For example, there is evidence that dopamine deficiency causes a disinhibition (overactivity) of the subthalamic nucleus and that this may result in excitotoxic injury to the substantia nigra.⁹⁵ By blocking the glutamatergic neurons in this nucleus, one may be able to reduce this damage. There is also evidence that several nutrients can significantly reduce excitotoxicity. For example, combinations of coenzyme Q10 and niacinamide have been shown to protect against striatal excitotoxic lesions. Methylcobolamin, phosphatidylserine, pycnogenol and acetyl-L-carnitine all protect against excitotoxicity as well.

Of particular concern are the toxic effects of these excitotoxic compounds on the developing brain. It is well recognised that the immature brain is four times more sensitive to the toxic effects of the excitatory amino acids as is the mature brain.

This means that excitotoxic injury is of special concern from the foetal stage to adolescence. There is evidence that the placenta concentrates several of these toxic amino acids on the foetal side of the placenta. Consumption of aspartame- and MSG-containing

products by pregnant women during this critical period of brain formation is of special concern and should be discouraged.

Many of the effects, such as endocrine dysfunction and complex learning difficulties, are subtle and may not appear until the child is older. Other hypothalamic syndromes associated with early excitotoxic lesions include immune alterations and violence dyscontrol.

Over 100 million Americans now consume aspartame products, and a greater number consume products containing one or more excitotoxins.

There is sufficient medical literature documenting serious injury by these additives in the concentrations presently in our food supply to justify warning the public of these dangers. The case against aspartame is especially strong.

Other hypothalamic syndromes associated with early excitotoxic lesions include immune alterations and violence dyscontrol.

Over 100 million Americans now consume aspartame products, and a greater number consume products containing one or more excitotoxins.

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HOW I CONTROL GRAVITATION

by T. Townsend Brown © 1929

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There is a decided tendency in the physical sciences to unify the great basic laws and to relate, by a single structure or mechanism, such individual phenomena as gravitation, electrodynamics and even matter itself.

It is found that matter and electricity are very closely related in structure. In the final analysis, matter loses its traditional individuality and becomes merely an "electrical condition". In fact, it might be said that the concrete body of the universe is nothing more than an assemblage of energy which, in itself, is quite intangible.

Of course, it is self-evident that matter is connected with gravitation and it follows logically that electricity is likewise connected. These relations exist in the realm of pure energy and consequently are very basic in nature. In all reality, *they constitute the true backbone of the universe.*

It is needless to say that the relations are not simple, and full understanding of their

concepts is complicated by the outstanding lack of information and research on the real nature of gravitation.

The theory of relativity introduced a new and revolutionary light to the subject by injecting a new conception of space and time. Gravitation thus becomes the natural outcome of so-called "distorted space". It loses its Newtonian interpretation as a tangible mechanical force and gains the rank of an "apparent" force, due merely to the condition of space itself.

Fields in space are produced by the presence of material bodies or electric charges. They are gravitational fields or electric fields according to their causes. Apparently they have no connection, one with the other. This fact is substantiated by observations to the effect that electric fields can be shielded and annulled, while gravitational fields are nearly perfectly penetrating. This dissimilarity has been the chief hardship to those who would compose a theory of combination.

It required Dr Einstein's own close study for a period of several years to achieve the results others have sought

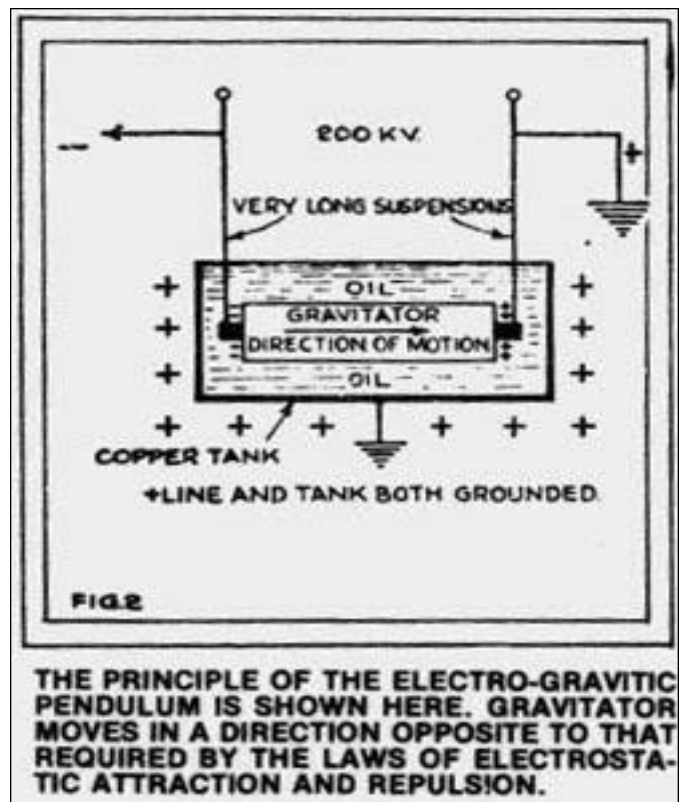
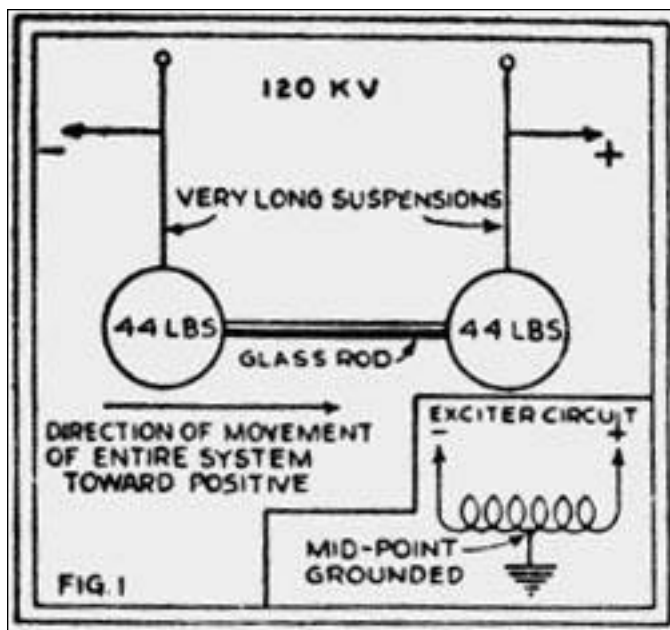
in vain and to announce with certainty the unitary field laws.

Einstein's field theory is purely mathematical. It is not based on the results of any laboratory test and does not, so far as known, predict any method by which an actual demonstration or proof may be made. The new theory accomplishes its purpose by "rounding out" the accepted principles of relativity so as to embrace electrical phenomena.

The theory of relativity, thus supplemented, represents the last word in mathematical physics. It is most certainly a theoretical structure of overpowering magnitude and importance. The thought involved is so far-reaching that it may be many years before the work is fully appreciated and understood.

Early Investigations

The writer and his colleagues anticipated the present situation even as early as 1923, and began at that time to construct the



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necessary theoretical bridge between the two then separate phenomena, electricity and gravitation.

The first actual demonstration of the relation was made in 1924. Observations were made of the individual and combined motions of two heavy lead balls which were suspended by wires 45 cm apart. The balls were given opposite electrical charges and the charges were maintained. Sensitive optical methods were employed in measuring the movements and, as near as could be observed, the balls appeared to behave according to the following law: "Any system of two bodies possesses a mutual and unidirectional force (typically in the line of the bodies) which is directly proportional to the product of the masses, directly proportional to the potential difference and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them."

The peculiar result is that the gravitational field of the Earth had no apparent connection with the experiment. The gravitational factors entered through the consideration of the mass of the electrified bodies.

The newly discovered force was quite obviously the resultant physical effect of an electrogravitational interaction. It represented the first actual evidence of the very basic relationship. The force was named "gravitator action", for want of a better term, and the apparatus or system of masses

employed was called a "gravitator". [See figure 1.]

Since the time of the first test, the apparatus and the methods used have been greatly improved and simplified. Cellular "gravitators" have taken the place of the large balls of lead. Rotating frames supporting two and four gravitators have made possible acceleration measurements. Molecular gravitators made of solid blocks of massive dielectric have given still-greater efficiency. Rotors and pendulums operating under oil have eliminated atmospheric considerations as to pressure, temperature and humidity. The disturbing effects of ionization, electron emission and pure electrostatics have likewise been carefully analyzed and eliminated.

Finally, after many years of tedious work and with refinement of methods, we succeeded in observing the gravitational variations produced by the Moon and Sun and much smaller variations produced by the different planets. It is a curious fact that the effects are most pronounced when the affecting body is in the alignment of the differently charged elements, and least pronounced when it is at right angles.

Much of the credit for this research is due to Dr Paul Biefield, Director of S w a z e y

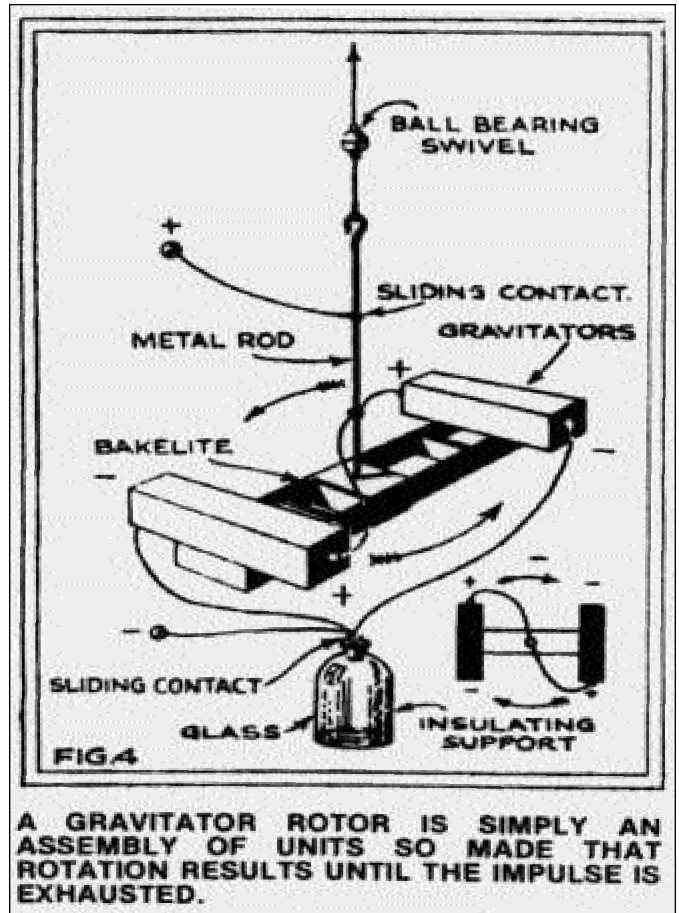
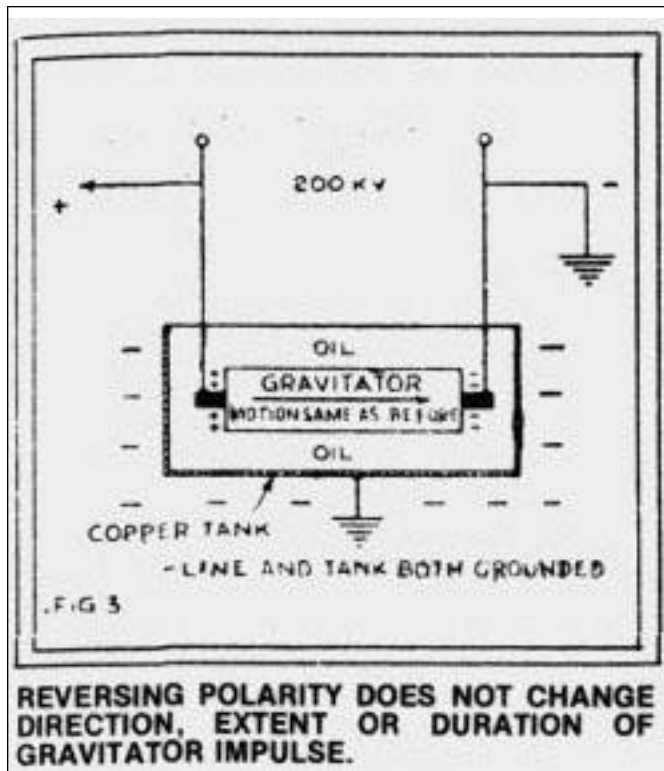
Observatory. The writer is deeply indebted to him for his assistance and for his many valuable and timely suggestions.

Gravitator Action an Impulse

Let us take, for example, the case of a gravitator totally immersed in oil but suspended so as to act as a pendulum and swing along the line of its elements. [See figure 2.]

When the direct current with high voltage (75-300 kilovolts) is applied, the gravitator swings up the arc until its propulsive force balances the force of the Earth's gravity resolved to that point, then it stops, but it does not remain there. The pendulum then gradually returns to the vertical or starting position, even while the potential is maintained. The pendulum swings only to one side of the vertical. Less than five seconds is required for the test pendulum to reach the maximum amplitude of the swing, but from thirty to eighty seconds are required for it to return to zero. [See figure 3.]

The total time or duration of the impulse varies with such cosmic conditions as the relative position and distance of the Moon,



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Sun and so forth. It is in no way affected by fluctuations in the supplied voltage, and averages the same for every mass or material under test. The duration of the impulse is governed solely by the condition of the gravitational field. It is a value which is unaffected by changes in the experimental set-up, voltage applied or type of gravitator employed. Any number of different kinds of gravitators operating simultaneously on widely different voltages would reveal exactly the same impulse duration at any instant. Over an extended period of time, all gravitators would show equal variations in the duration of the impulse.

After the gravitator is once fully discharged, its impulse exhausted, the electrical potential must be removed for at least five minutes in order that it may recharge itself and regain its normal gravitic condition. The effect is much like that of discharging and charging a storage battery, except that electricity is handled in a reverse manner. When the duration of the impulse is great, the time required for complete recharge is likewise great. The times of discharge and recharge are always proportional. Technically speaking, the exogravitic rate and the endogravitic rate are proportional to the gravitic capacity. [See figures 4, 5, 6.]

Summary of Characteristics

Summing up the observations of the electrogravitic pendulum, the following characteristics are noted:

- **Applied Voltage** determines only the amplitude of the swing.

- **Applied Amperage** is only sufficient to overcome leakage and maintain the required voltage through the losses of the dielectric. Thus the total load approximates on 37 ten-millionths of an ampere. It apparently has no other relation to the movement, at least from the present state of physics.

- **Mass of the Dielectric** is a factor in determining the total energy involved in the impulse. For a given amplitude, an increase in mass is productive of an increase in the energy exhibited by the system ($E = mg$).

- **Duration of the Impulse** with electrical conditions maintained is independent of all of the foregoing factors. It is governed solely by external gravitational conditions, positions of the Moon, Sun, etc., and represents the total energy or summation of energy values which are effective at that instant.

- **Gravitational Energy Levels** are observable as the pendulum returns from the maximum deflection to the zero point or vertical position. The pendulum hesitates in its return movement on definite levels or steps. The relative position and influence of these steps vary continuously every minute of the day. One step or energy value corresponds, in effect, to each cosmic body that is influencing the electrified mass or gravitator. By merely tracing a succession of values over a period of time, a fairly intelligible record of the paths and the relative gravitational effects of the Moon, Sun, etc., may be obtained.

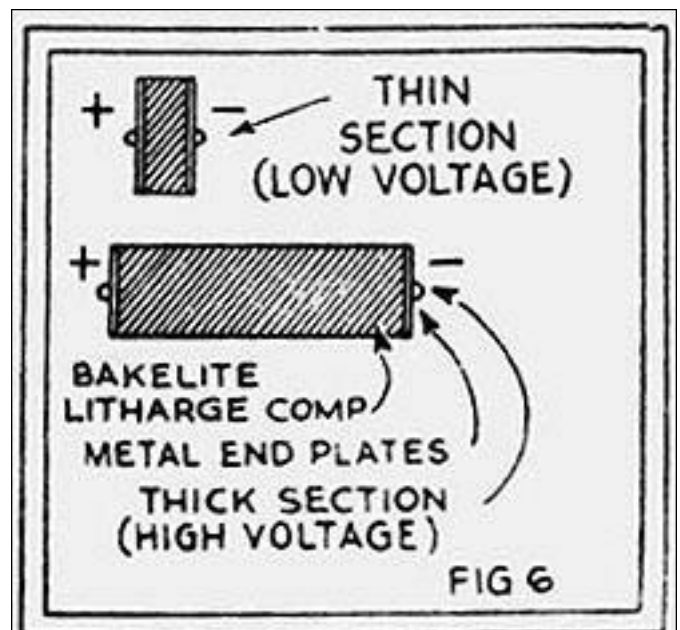
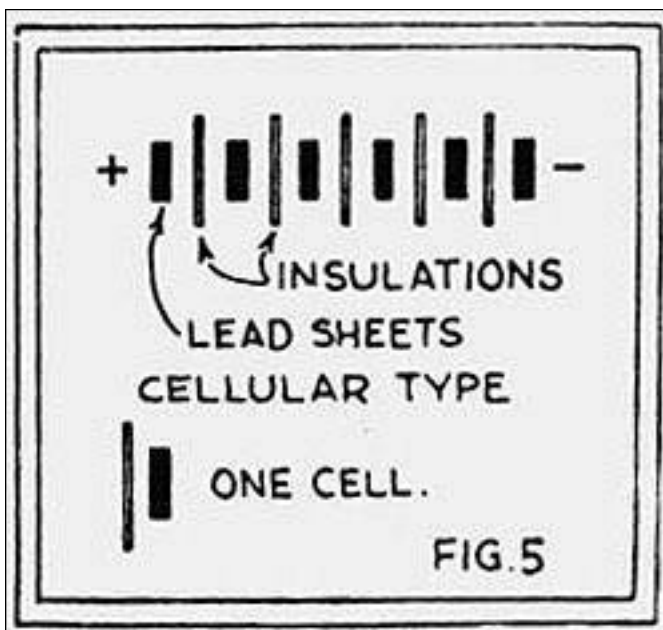
In general, then, every material body

possesses inherently within its substance separate and distinct energy levels corresponding to the gravitational influences of every other body. These levels are readily revealed as the electrogravitic impulse dies and as the total gravitic content of the body is slowly released.

The gravitator, in all reality, is a very efficient electric motor. Unlike other forms of motors, it does not in any way involve the principles of electromagnetism, but instead it utilizes the newer principles of electrogravitation. A simple gravitator has no moving parts but is apparently capable of moving itself from within itself. It is highly efficient for the reason that it uses no gears, shafts, propellers or wheels in creating its motive power. It has no internal resistance and no observable rise in temperature. Contrary to the common belief that gravitational motors must necessarily be vertical-acting, the gravitator, it is found, acts equally well in every conceivable direction.

While the gravitator is at present primarily a scientific instrument, perhaps even an astronomical instrument, it also is rapidly advancing to a position of commercial value. Multi-impulse gravitators weighing hundreds of tons may propel the ocean liners of the future. Smaller and more concentrated units may propel automobiles and even airplanes. Perhaps even the fantastic "space cars" and the promised visit to Mars may be the final outcome. Who can tell?

(Source: *The Townsend Brown Family*, website www.soteria.com/brown/docs/control/htm)



— THE EVIDENCE FOR — ANCIENT ATOMIC WARFARE

*Religious texts
and geological
evidence suggest
that several parts
of the world have
experienced
destructive
atomic blasts in
ages past.*

Part 1 of 2

by David Hatcher Childress © 2000

Extracted from Chapter 6 of his book
*Technology of the Gods: The Incredible
Sciences of the Ancients*

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The following item appeared in the New York *Herald Tribune* on February 16, 1947 (and was repeated by Ivan T. Sanderson in the January 1970 issue of his magazine, *Pursuit*):

When the first atomic bomb exploded in New Mexico, the desert sand turned to fused green glass. This fact, according to the magazine Free World, has given certain archaeologists a turn. They have been digging in the ancient Euphrates Valley and have uncovered a layer of agrarian culture 8,000 years old, and a layer of herdsman culture much older, and a still older caveman culture. Recently, they reached another layer...of fused green glass.

It is well known that atomic detonations on or above a sandy desert will melt the silicon in the sand and turn the surface of the Earth into a sheet of glass. But if sheets of ancient desert glass can be found in various parts of the world, does it mean that atomic wars were fought in the ancient past or, at the very least, that atomic testing occurred in the dim ages of history?

This is a startling theory, but one that is not lacking in evidence, as such ancient sheets of desert glass are a geological fact. Lightning strikes can sometimes fuse sand, meteorologists contend, but this is always in a distinctive root-like pattern. These strange geological oddities are called *fulgurites* and manifest as branched tubular forms rather than as flat sheets of fused sand. Therefore, lightning is largely ruled out as the cause of such finds by geologists, who prefer to hold onto the theory of a meteor or comet strike as the cause. The problem with this theory is that there is usually no crater associated with these anomalous sheets of glass.

Brad Steiger and Ron Calais report in their book, *Mysteries of Time and Space*,¹ that Albion W. Hart, one of the first engineers to graduate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was assigned an engineering project in the interior of Africa. While he and his men were travelling to an almost inaccessible region, they first had to cross a great expanse of desert.

"At the time he was puzzled and quite unable to explain a large expanse of greenish glass which covered the sands as far as he could see," writes Margarethe Casson in an article on Hart's life in the magazine *Rocks and Minerals* (no. 396, 1972). She then goes on to mention: "Later on, during his life...he passed by the White Sands area after the first atomic explosion there, and he recognized the same type of silica fusion which he had seen fifty years earlier in the African desert."²

Tektites: A Terrestrial Explanation?

Large desert areas strewn with mysterious globules of "glass"—known as *tektites*—are occasionally discussed in geological literature. These blobs of "hardened glass" (glass is a liquid, in fact) are thought to come from meteorite impacts in most instances, but the evidence shows that in many cases there is no impact crater.

Another explanation is that tektites have a terrestrial explanation—one that includes atomic war or high-tech weapons capable of melting sand. The tektite debate was summed up in an article entitled "The Tektite Problem", by John O'Keefe, published in the August 1978 edition of *Scientific American*. Said O'Keefe:

If tektites are terrestrial, it means that some process exists by which soil or common rocks can be converted in an instant into homogeneous, water-free, bubble-free glass and be propelled thousands of miles above the atmosphere. If tektites come from the Moon, it seems to follow that there is at least one powerful volcano somewhere on the Moon that has erupted at least as recently as 750,000 years ago. Neither possibility

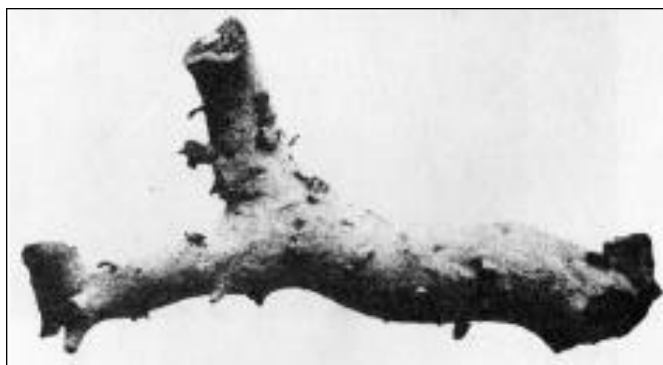
is easy to accept. Yet one of them must be accepted, and I believe it is feasible to pick the more reasonable one by rejecting the more unlikely.

The key to solving the tektite problem is an insistence on a physically reasonable hypothesis and a resolute refusal to be impressed by mere numerical coincidences such as the similarity of terrestrial sediments to tektite material. I believe that the lunar volcanism hypothesis is the only one physically possible, and that we have to accept it. If it leads to unexpected but not impossible conclusions, that is precisely its utility.

To cite just one example of the utility, the lunar origin of tektites strongly supports the idea that the Moon was formed by fission of the Earth. Tektites are indeed much more like terrestrial rocks than one would expect of a chance assemblage. If tektites come from a lunar magma, then deep inside the Moon there must be material that is very much like the mantle of the Earth—more like the mantle than it is like the shallower parts of the Moon from which the lunar surface basalts have originated. If the Moon was formed by fission of the Earth, the object that became the Moon would have been heated intensely and from the outside, and would have lost most of its original mass and in particular the more volatile elements. The lavas constituting most of the Moon's present surface were erupted early in the Moon's history, when its heat was concentrated in the shallow depleted zone quite near the surface. During the recent periods represented by tektite falls, the sources of lunar volcanism have necessarily been much deeper, so that any volcanoes responsible for tektites have drawn on the lunar material that suffered least during the period of ablation and is therefore most like unaltered terrestrial mantle material. Ironically, that would explain why tektites are in some ways more like terrestrial rocks than they are like the rocks of the lunar surface.

Mysterious Glass in the Egyptian Sahara

One of the strangest mysteries of ancient Egypt is that of the great glass sheets that were only discovered in 1932. In December of that year, Patrick Clayton, a surveyor for the Egyptian Geological Survey, was driving among the dunes of the



A fulgurite: sand fused or vitrified by lightning

Great Sand Sea near the Saad Plateau in the virtually uninhabited area just north of the southwestern corner of Egypt, when he heard his tyres crunch on something that wasn't sand. It turned out to be large pieces of marvellously clear, yellow-green glass.

In fact, this wasn't just any ordinary glass, but ultra-pure glass that was an astonishing 98 per cent silica. Clayton wasn't the first person to come across this field of glass, as various 'prehistoric' hunters and nomads had obviously also found the now-famous Libyan Desert Glass (LDG). The glass had been used in the past to make knives and sharp-edged tools as well as other objects. A carved scarab of LDG was even found in Tutankhamen's tomb, indicating that the glass was sometimes used for jewellery.

An article by Giles Wright in the British science magazine *New*

Scientist (July 10, 1999), entitled "The Riddle of the Sands", says that LDG is the purest natural silica glass ever found. Over a thousand tonnes of it are strewn across hundreds of kilometres of bleak desert. Some of the chunks weigh 26 kilograms, but most LDG exists in smaller, angular pieces—looking like shards left when a giant green bottle was smashed by colossal forces.

According to the article, LDG, pure as it is, does contain tiny bubbles, white wisps and inky black swirls. The whitish inclusions consist of

refractory minerals such as cristobalite. The ink-like swirls, though, are rich in iridium, which is diagnostic of an extraterrestrial impact such as a meteorite or comet, according to conventional wisdom. The general theory is that the glass was created by the searing, sand-melting impact of a cosmic projectile.

However, there are serious problems with this theory, says Wright, and many mysteries concerning this stretch of desert containing the pure glass. The main problem: Where did this immense amount of widely dispersed glass shards come from? There is no evidence of an impact crater of any kind; the surface of the Great Sand Sea shows no sign of a giant crater, and neither do microwave probes made deep into the sand by satellite radar.

Furthermore, LDG seems to be too pure to be derived from a messy cosmic collision. Wright mentions that known impact craters, such as the one at Wabar in Saudi Arabia, are littered with bits of iron and other meteorite debris. This is not the case with the Libyan Desert Glass site. What is more, LDG is concentrated in two areas, rather than one. One area is oval-shaped; the other is a circular ring, six kilometres wide and 21 kilometres in diameter. The ring's wide centre is devoid of the glass.

One theory is that there was a *soft* projectile impact: a meteorite, perhaps 30 metres in diameter, may have detonated about 10 kilometres or so above the Great Sand Sea, the searing blast of hot air melting the sand beneath. Such a craterless impact is thought to have occurred in the 1908 Tunguska event in Siberia—at least as far as mainstream science is concerned. That event, like the pure desert glass, remains a mystery.

Another theory has a meteorite glancing off the desert surface, leaving a glassy crust and a shallow crater that was soon filled in. But there are two known areas of LDG. Were there two cosmic projectiles in tandem?

Alternatively, is it possible that the vitrified desert is the result of atomic war in the ancient past? Could a Tesla-type beam weapon have melted the desert, perhaps in a test?

An article entitled "Dating the Libyan Desert Silica-Glass"

Libyan Desert Glass (LDG) is the purest natural silica glass ever found. Over a thousand tonnes of it are strewn across hundreds of kilometres of bleak desert. Some of the chunks weigh 26 kilograms...

appeared in the British journal *Nature* (no. 170) in 1952. Said the author, Kenneth Oakley:³

Pieces of natural silica-glass up to 16 lb in weight occur scattered sparsely in an oval area, measuring 130 km north to south and 53 km from east to west, in the Sand Sea of the Libyan Desert. This remarkable material, which is almost pure (97 per cent silica), relatively light (sp. gin. 2.21), clear and yellowish-green in colour, has the qualities of a gem-stone. It was discovered by the Egyptian Survey Expedition under Mr P.A. Clayton in 1932, and was thoroughly investigated by Dr L.J. Spencer, who joined a special expedition of the Survey for this purpose in 1934.

The pieces are found in sand-free corridors between north-south dune ridges, about 100 m high and 2-5 km apart. These corridors or "streets" have a rubbly surface, rather like that of a "speedway" track, formed by angular gravel and red loamy weathering debris overlying Nubian sandstone. The pieces of glass lie on this surface or partly embedded in it. Only a few small fragments were found below the surface, and none deeper than about one metre. All the pieces on the surface have been pitted or smoothed by sand-blast. The distribution of the glass is patchy...

While undoubtedly natural, the origin of the Libyan silica-glass is uncertain. In its constitution it resembles the tektites of supposed cosmic origin, but these are much smaller. Tektites are usually black, although one variety found in Bohemia and Moravia and known as moldavite is clear deep-green. The Libyan silica-glass has also been compared with the glass formed by the fusion of sand in the heat generated by the fall of a great meteorite; for example, at Wabar in Arabia and at Henbury in central Australia.

Reporting the findings of his expedition, Dr Spencer said that he had not been able to trace the Libyan glass to any source; no fragments of meteorites or indications of meteorite craters could be found in the area of its distribution. He said: "It seemed easier to assume that it had simply fallen from the sky."

It would be of considerable interest if the time of origin or arrival of the silica-glass in the Sand Sea could be determined geologically or archaeologically. Its restriction to the surface or top layer of a superficial deposit suggests that it is not of great antiquity from the geological point of view. On the other hand, it has clearly been there since prehistoric times. Some of the flakes were submitted to Egyptologists in Cairo, who regarded them as "late Neolithic or pre-dynastic". In spite of a careful search by Dr Spencer and the late Mr A. Lucas, no objects of silica-glass could be found in the collections from Tut-Ankh-Amen's tomb or from any of the other dynastic tombs. No potsherds were encountered in the silica-glass area, but in the neighbourhood of the flakings some "crude spear-points of glass" were found; also some quartzite implements, "quernstones" and ostrich-shell fragments.

Oakley is apparently incorrect when he says that LDG was

not found in Tutankhamen's tomb, as according to Wright a piece was found.

At any rate, the vitrified areas of the Libyan Desert are yet to be explained. Are they evidence of an ancient war—a war that may have turned North Africa and Arabia into the desert that it is today?

The Vitrified Forts of Scotland

One of the great mysteries of classical archaeology is the existence of many vitrified forts in Scotland. Are they also evidence of some ancient atomic war? Maybe, but maybe not.

There are said to be at least 60 such forts throughout Scotland. Among the most well-known are Tap o'Noth, Dunnideer, Craig Phadraig (near Inverness), Abernathy (near Perth), Dun Lagaidh (in Ross), Cromarty, Arka-Unskel, Eilean na Goar, and Bute-Dunagoil on the Sound of Bute off Arran Island. Another well-known vitrified fort is the Cauadale hill-fort in Argyll, West Scotland.

One of the best examples of a vitrified fort is Tap o'Noth, which is near the village of Rhynie in northeastern Scotland. This massive fort from pre-history is on the summit of a mountain of the same name which, being 1,859 feet (560 metres) high, com-

mands an impressive view of the Aberdeenshire countryside. At first glance it seems that the walls are made of a rubble of stones, but on closer look it is apparent that they are made not of dry stones but of melted rocks! What were once individual stones are now black and cindery masses, fused together by heat that must have been so intense that molten rivers of rock once ran down the walls.

Reports on vitrified forts were made as far back as 1880 when Edward Hamilton wrote an article entitled "Vitrified Forts on the West Coast of Scotland" in the *Archaeological Journal* (no. 37, 1880, pp. 227-243). In his article, Hamilton describes several sites in detail, including Arka-Unskel:⁴

At the point where Loch na Nuagh begins to narrow, where

One of the great mysteries of classical archaeology is the existence of many vitrified forts in Scotland. Are they also evidence of some ancient atomic war?

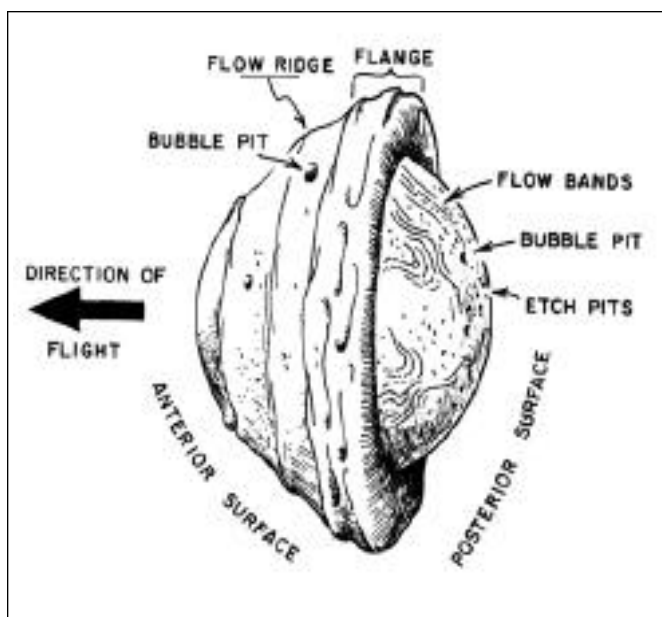


Distribution of tektites, with their theoretical ages

the opposite shore is about one-and-a-half to two miles distant, is a small promontory connected with the mainland by a narrow strip of sand and grass, which evidently at one time was submerged by the rising tide. On the flat summit of this promontory are the ruins of a vitrified fort, the proper name for which is Arka-Unskel.

The rocks on which this fort are placed are metamorphic gneiss, covered with grass and ferns, and rise on three sides almost perpendicular for about 110 feet from the sea level. The smooth surface on the top is divided by a slight depression into two portions. On the largest, with precipitous sides to the sea, the chief portion of the fort is situated, and occupies the whole of the flat surface. It is of somewhat oval form. The circumference is about 200 feet, and the vitrified walls can be traced in its entire length... We dug under the vitrified mass, and there found what was extremely interesting, as throwing some light on the manner in which the fire was applied for the purpose of vitrification. The internal part of the upper or vitrified wall for about a foot or a foot-and-a-half was untouched by the fire, except that some of the flat stones were slightly agglutinated together, and that the stones, all feldspatic, were placed in layers one upon another.

It was evident, therefore, that a rude foundation of boulder stones was first formed upon the original rock, and then a thick layer of loose, mostly flat stones of feldspatic sand, and of a different kind from those found in the immediate neighborhood, were placed on this foundation, and then vitrified by heat applied externally. This foundation of loose stones is found also in the vitrified fort of Dun Mac Snuichan, on Loch Etive.



A flanged tektite

Hamilton describes another vitrified fort that is much larger, situated on the island at the entrance of Loch Ailort.

This island, locally termed Eilean na Goar, is the most eastern and is bounded on all sides by precipitous gneiss rocks; it is the abode and nesting place of numerous sea birds. The flat surface on the top is 120 feet from the sea level, and the remains of the vitrified fort are situated on this, oblong in form, with a continuous rampart of vitrified wall five feet thick, attached at the SW end to a large upright rock of gneiss. The space enclosed by this wall is 420 feet in circumference and 70 feet in width. The rampart is continuous and

about five feet in thickness. At the eastern end is a great mass of wall in situ, vitrified on both sides. In the centre of the enclosed space is a deep depression in which are masses of the vitrified wall strewn about, evidently detached from their original site.

Hamilton naturally asks a few obvious questions about the forts. Were these structures built as a means of defence? Was the vitrification the result of design or accident? How was the vitrification produced?

In this vitrification process, huge blocks of stones have been fused with smaller rubble to form a hard, glassy mass. Explanations for the vitrification are few and far between, and none of them is universally accepted.

One early theory was that these forts are located on ancient volcanoes (or the remains of them) and that the people used molten stone ejected from eruptions to build their settlements.

This idea was replaced with the theory that the builders of the walls had designed the forts in such a way that the vitrification was purposeful in order to strengthen the walls. This theory postulated that fires had been lit and flammable material added to produce walls strong enough to resist the dampness of the local climate or the invading armies of the enemy. It is an interesting theory, but one that presents several problems. For starters, there is really no indication that such vitrification actually strengthens the walls of the fortress; rather, it seems to weaken them. In many cases, the walls of the forts seem to have collapsed because of the fires. Also, since the walls of many Scottish forts are only partially vitrified, this would hardly have proved an effective building method.

Julius Caesar described a type of wood and stone fortress, known as a *muris gallicus*, in his account of the Gallic Wars. This was interesting to those seeking solutions to the vitrified fort mystery because these forts were made of a stone wall filled with rubble, with wooden logs inside for stability. It seemed logical to suggest that perhaps the burning of such a wood-filled wall might create the phenomenon of vitrification.

Some researchers are sure that the builders of the forts caused the vitrification. Arthur C. Clarke quotes one team of chemists from the Natural History Museum in London who were studying the many forts:⁵

Considering the high temperatures which have to be produced, and the fact that possibly sixty or so vitrified forts are to be seen in a limited geographical area of Scotland, we do not believe that this type of structure is the result of

accidental fires. Careful planning and construction were needed.

However, one Scottish archaeologist, Helen Nisbet, believes that the vitrification was not done on purpose by the builders of the forts. In a thorough analysis of rock types used, she reveals that most of the forts were built of stone easily available at the chosen site and not chosen for their property of vitrification.⁶

The vitrification process itself, even if purposely set, is quite a mystery. A team of chemists on *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World* subjected rock samples from 11 forts to rigorous chemical analysis, and stated that the temperatures needed to produce the vitrification were so intense—up to 1,100°C—that a simple burning of walls with wood interlaced with stone could not have achieved such temperatures.⁷

Nevertheless, experiments carried out in the 1930s by the famous archaeologist V. Gordon Childe and his colleague Wallace Thorneycroft showed that forts could be set on fire and generate enough heat to vitrify the stone.⁸ In 1934, these two designed a test wall that was 12 feet long, six feet wide and six feet high, which was built for them at Plean Colliery in Stirlingshire. They used old fireclay bricks for the faces and pit props as timber, and filled the cavity between the walls with small cubes of basalt rubble. They covered the top with turf and then piled about four tons of scrap timber and brushwood against the walls and set fire to them. Because of a snowstorm in progress, a strong wind fanned the blazing mixture of wood and stone so that the inner core did attain some vitrification of the rock.

In June 1937, Childe and Thorneycroft duplicated their test vitrification at the ancient fort of Rahoy, in Argyllshire, using rocks found at the site. Their experiments did not resolve any of the questions surrounding vitrified forts, however, because they had only proven that it was theoretically possible to pile enough wood and brush on top of a mixture of wood and stone to vitrify the mass of stone. One criticism of Childe is that he seems to have used a larger proportion of wood to stone than many historians believe made up the ancient wood and stone fortresses.

An important part of Childe's theory was that it was invaders, not the builders, who were assaulting the forts and then setting fire to the walls with piles of brush and wood; however, it is hard to understand why people would have repeatedly built defences that invaders could destroy with fire, when great ramparts of solid stone would have survived unscathed.

Critics of the assault theory point out that in order to generate enough heat by a natural fire, the walls would have to have been specially constructed to create the heat necessary. It seems unreasonable to suggest the builders would specifically create forts to be burned or that such a great effort would be made by invaders to create the kind of fire it would take to vitrify the walls—at least with traditional techniques.

One problem with all the many theories is their assumption of a primitive state of culture associated with ancient Scotland.

It is astonishing to think of how large and well coordinated the

population or army must have been that built and inhabited these ancient structures. Janet and Colin Bord in their book, *Mysterious Britain*,⁹ speak of Maiden Castle to give an idea of the vast extent of this marvel of prehistoric engineering.

It covers an area of 120 acres, with an average width of 1,500 feet and length of 3,000 feet. The inner circumference is about 1 1/2 miles round, and it has been estimated...that it would require 250,000 men to defend it! It is hard, therefore, to believe that this construction was intended to be a defensive position.

A great puzzle to archaeologists has always been the multiple and labyrinthine east and west entrances at each end of the enclosure. Originally they may have been built as a way for processional entry by people of the Neolithic era. Later, when warriors of the Iron Age were using the site as a

fortress, they probably found them useful as a means of confusing the attacking force trying to gain entry. The fact that so many of these "hill-forts" have two entrances—one north of east and the other south of west—also suggests some form of Sun ceremonial.

With 250,000 men defending a fort, we are talking about a huge army in a very organised society. This is not a bunch of fur-wearing Picts with spears defending a fort from marauding bands of hunter-gatherers. The questions remain, though. What huge army might have occupied these cliff-side forts by the sea or lake entrances? And what massive maritime power were these people unsuccessfully defending themselves against?

The forts on the western coast of Scotland are reminiscent of the mysterious cliff-top forts in the Aran Islands on the west coast of Ireland. Here we truly have shades of the Atlantis story, with a powerful naval fleet attacking and conquering its neighbours in a terrible war. It has been theorised that the terrible battles of the Atlantis story took place in Wales, Scotland, Ireland and England—however, in the case of

the Scottish vitrified forts it looks as if these were the losers of a war, not the victors. And defeat can be seen across the land: the war dykes in Sussex, the vitrified forts of Scotland, the utter collapse and disappearance of the civilisation that built these things. What long-ago Armageddon destroyed ancient Scotland?

In ancient times there was a substance known through writings as *Greek fire*. This was some sort of ancient napalm bomb that was hurled by catapult and could not be put out. Some forms of Greek fire were even said to burn under water and were therefore used in naval battles. (The actual composition of Greek fire is unknown, but it must have contained chemicals such as phosphorus, pitch, sulphur or other flammable chemicals.)

Could a form of Greek fire have been responsible for the vitrification? While ancient astronaut theorists may believe that extraterrestrials with their atomic weapons vitrified these walls, it seems more likely that they are the result of a man-made apocalypse of a chemical nature. With siege machines, battleships and Greek fire, did a vast flotilla storm the huge forts and eventually burn them down in a hellish blaze?

While ancient astronaut theorists may believe that extraterrestrials with their atomic weapons vitrified these walls, it seems more likely that they are the result of a man-made apocalypse of a chemical nature.

The evidence of the vitrified forts is clear: some hugely successful and organised civilisation was living in Scotland, England and Wales in prehistoric times, circa 1000 BC or more, and was building gigantic structures including forts. This apparently was a maritime civilisation that prepared itself for naval warfare as well as other forms of attack.

Vitrified Ruins in France, Turkey and the Middle East

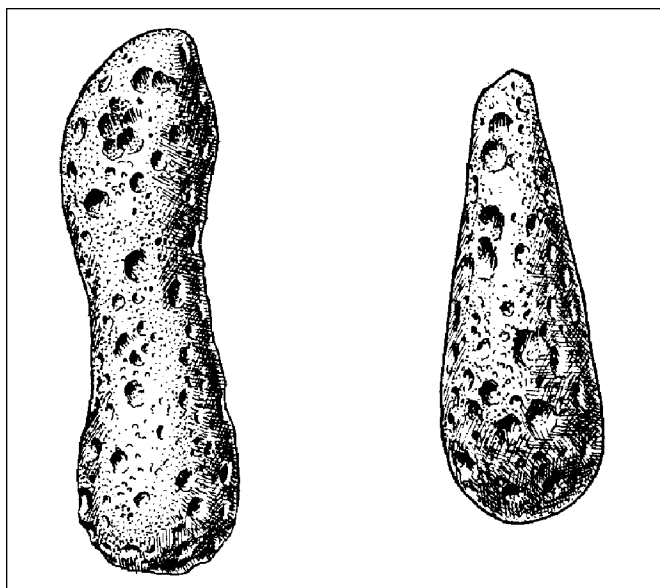
Vitrified ruins can also be found in France, Turkey and some areas of the Middle East.

Vitrified forts in France are discussed in the *American Journal of Science* (vol. 3, no. 22, 1881, pp. 150-151) in an article entitled "On the Substances Obtained from Some 'Forts Vitriifiés' in France", by M. Daubrée. The author mentions several forts in Brittany and northern France whose granite blocks have been vitrified. He cites the "partially fused granitic rocks from the forts of Châteauvieux and of Puy de Gaudy (Creuse), also from the neighbourhood of Saint Briec (Côtes-du-Nord)".¹⁰ Daubrée, understandably, could not readily find an explanation for the vitrification.

Similarly, the ruins of Hattusas in central Turkey, an ancient Hittite city, are partially vitrified. The Hittites are said to be the inventors of the chariot, and horses were of great importance to them. It is on the ancient Hittite stelae that we first see a depiction of the chariot in use. However, it seems unlikely that horsemanship and wheeled chariots were invented by the Hittites; it is highly likely that chariots were in use in ancient China at the same time.

The Hittites were also linked to the world of ancient India. Proto-Indic writing has been found at Hattusas, and scholars now admit that the civilisation of India, as the ancient Indian texts like the *Ramayana* have said, goes back many millennia.

In his 1965 book, *The Bible as History*,¹¹ German historian



Indonesian tektites

Just as Egypt goes back many thousands of years BC and is ultimately connected to Atlantis, so does the ancient Hittite Empire. Like the Egyptians, the Hittites carved massive granite sphinxes, built on a cyclopean scale and worshipped the Sun.

Werner Keller cites some of the mysteries concerning the Hittites. According to Keller, the Hittites are first mentioned in the Bible (in Genesis 23) in connection with the biblical patriarch Abraham who acquired from the Hittites a burial place in Hebron for his wife Sarah. Conservative classical scholar Keller is confused by this, because the time period of Abraham was circa 2000–1800 BC, while the Hittites are traditionally said to have appeared in the 16th century BC.

Even more confusing to Keller is the biblical statement (in Numbers 13:29-30) that the Hittites were the founders of

Jerusalem. This is a fascinating statement, as it would mean that the Hittites also occupied Ba'albek, which lies between their realm and Jerusalem. The Temple Mount at Jerusalem is built on a foundation of huge ashlar, as is Ba'albek. The Hittites definitely used the gigantic megalithic construction known as *cyclopean*—huge, odd-shaped polygonal blocks, perfectly fitted together. The massive walls and gates of Hattusas are eerily similar in construction to those in the high Andes and other megalithic sites around the world. The difference at Hattusas is that parts of the city

are vitrified, and the walls of rock have been partly melted. If the Hittites were the builders of Jerusalem, it would mean that the ancient Hittite Empire existed for several thousand years and had frontiers with Egypt. Indeed, the Hittite hieroglyphic script is undeniably similar to Egyptian hieroglyphs, probably more so than any other language.

Just as Egypt goes back many thousands of years BC and is ultimately connected to Atlantis, so does the ancient Hittite Empire. Like the Egyptians, the Hittites carved massive granite sphinxes, built on a cyclopean scale and worshipped the Sun. The Hittites also used the common motif of a winged disc for their Sun god, just as the Egyptians did. The Hittites were well known in the ancient world because they were the main manufacturers of iron and bronze goods. The Hittites were metallurgists and seafarers. Their winged discs may in fact have been representations of *vimanas*—flying machines.

Some of the ancient ziggurats of Iran and Iraq also contain vitrified material, sometimes thought by archaeologists to be caused by the Greek fire. For instance, the vitrified remains of the ziggurat at Birs Nimrod (Borsippa), south of Hillah, were once confused with the Tower of Babel. The ruins are crowned by a mass of vitrified brickwork—actual clay bricks fused together by intense heat. This may be due to the horrific ancient wars described in the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, although early archaeologists attributed the effect to lightning.

Greek Fire, Plasma Guns and Atomic Warfare

If one were to believe the great Indian epic of the *Mahabharata*, fantastic battles were fought in the past with airships, particle beams, chemical warfare and presumably atomic weapons. Just as battles in the 20th century have been fought with incredibly devastating weapons, it may well be that battles in the latter days of Atlantis were fought with highly sophisticated, high-tech weapons.

The mysterious Greek fire was a "chemical fireball".

Incendiary mixtures go back at least to the 5th century BC, when Aineias the Tactician wrote a book called *On the Defence of Fortified Positions*. Said he:¹²

And fire itself, which is to be powerful and quite inextinguishable, is to be prepared as follows. Pitch, sulphur, tow, granulated frankincense, and pine sawdust in sacks you should ignite if you wish to set any of the enemy's works on fire.

L. Sprague de Camp mentions in his book, *The Ancient Engineers*,¹³ that at some point it was found that petroleum, which seeps out of the ground in Iraq and elsewhere, made an ideal base for incendiary mixtures because it could be squirted from syringes of the sort then used in fighting fires. Other substances were added to it, such as sulphur, olive oil, rosin, bitumen, salt and quicklime.

Some of these additives may have helped—sulphur at least made a fine stench—but others did not, although it was thought that they did. Salt, for instance, may have been added because the sodium in it gave the flame a bright orange colour. The ancients, supposing that a brighter flame was necessarily a hotter flame, mistakenly believed that salt made the fire burn more fiercely. Such mixtures were put in thin wooden casks and thrown from catapults at hostile ships and at wooden siege engines and defence works.

According to de Camp, in AD 673 the architect Kallinikos fled ahead of Arab invaders from Helipolis-Ba'albek to Constantinople. There he revealed to Emperor Constantine IV an improved formula for a liquid incendiary. This could not only be squirted at the foe but could also be used with great effect at sea, because it caught fire when it touched the water and floated, flaming on the waves.

De Camp says that Byzantine galleys were armed with a flame-throwing apparatus in the bow, consisting of a tank of this mixture, a pump and a nozzle. With the help of this compound, the Byzantines broke the Arab sieges of AD 674–76 and AD 715–18, and also beat off the Russian attacks of AD 941 and 1043. The incendiary liquid wrought immense havoc; of 800 Arab ships which attacked Constantinople in 716 AD, only a handful returned home.

The formula for the wet version of Greek fire has never been discovered. Says de Camp:

By careful security precautions, the Byzantine Emperors succeeded in keeping the secret of this substance, called "wet fire" or "wild fire", so dark that it never did become generally known. When asked about it, they blandly replied that an angel had revealed the formula to the first Constantine.

We can, therefore, only guess the nature of the mixture. According to one disputed theory, wet fire was petroleum with an admixture of calcium phosphide, which can be made from lime, bones and urine. Perhaps Kallinikos stumbled across this substance in the course of alchemical experiments.

Vitrification of brick, rock and sand may have been caused by any number of high-tech means. New Zealand author Robin

Collyns suggests in his book, *Ancient Astronauts: A Time Reversal?*,¹⁴ that there are five methods by which the ancients or "ancient astronauts" might have waged war on various societies on planet Earth. He outlines how these methods are again on the rise in modern society. The five methods are: plasma guns, fusion torches, holes punched in the ozone layer, manipulation of weather processes and the release of immense energy, such as with an atomic blast. As Collyns's book was published in Britain in 1976, the mentions of holes in the ozone layer and weather warfare seem strangely prophetic.

Explaining the plasma gun, Collyns says:

The plasma gun has already been developed experimentally for peaceful purposes: Ukrainian scientists from the Geotechnical Mechanics Institute have experimentally drilled tunnels in iron ore mines by using a plasmatron, i.e., a plasma gas jet which delivers a temperature of 6,000°C.

A plasma, in this case, is an electrified gas. Electrified gases are also featured in the *Vymaanika-Shaastra*,¹⁵ the ancient book from India on *vimanas*, which cryptically talks of using for fuel the liquid metal mercury, which could be a plasma if electrified.

Collyns goes on to describe a fusion torch:

This is still another possible method of warfare used by spacemen, or ancient advanced civilisations on Earth. Perhaps the solar mirrors of antiquity really were fusion torches? The fusion torch is basically a further development

of the plasma jet. In 1970 a theory to develop a fusion torch was presented at the New York aerospace science meeting by Drs Bernard J. Eastlund and William C. Cough. The basic idea is to generate a fan-tastic heat of at least fifty million degrees Celsius which could be contained and controlled. That is, the energy released could be used for many peaceful applications with zero radioactive waste products to avoid contaminating the environment, or zero production of radioactive elements which would

be highly dangerous, such as plutonium which is the most deadly substance known to man. Thermonuclear fusion occurs naturally in stellar processes, and unnaturally in man-made H-bomb explosions.

The fusion of a deuterium nucleus (a heavy hydrogen isotope which can be easily extracted from sea water) with another deuterium nucleus, or with tritium (another isotope of hydrogen) or with helium, could be used. The actual fusion torch would be an ionised plasma jet which would vaporise anything and everything that the jet was directed at—if...used for harmful purposes—while for peaceful applications, one use of the torch could be to reclaim basic elements from junk metals.

University of Texas scientists announced in 1974 that they had actually developed the first experimental fusion torch which gave an incredible heat output of ninety-three degrees

...there are five methods by which the ancients or "ancient astronauts" might have waged war on various societies on planet Earth: plasma guns, fusion torches, holes punched in the ozone layer, manipulation of weather processes and the release of immense energy, such as with an atomic blast.

Continued on page 83

Sai Baba Exposed

Fraud, Fakery & Molestation

Evidence has been gathering for many years that Sai Baba is not quite the saintly Indian guru whom his devotees believe him to be.

Contributions from:

Terry Gallagher, Hans de Kraker,
Jens and Gurprit Sethi

Compiled from the website:
[www.myfreeoffice.com/
saibabaexposed/](http://www.myfreeoffice.com/saibabaexposed/)

A SHORT HISTORY OF SATHYA SAI BABA

Sri Sathya Sai Baba was born in South India, in the tiny village of Puttaparthi, on 23 November 1926. His given name was Satyanarayana and his family name was Raju. On 20 October 1940, at the age of fourteen, he declared to his family and to the people of his village that he was the reincarnation of an Indian saint who had died in 1918, named Shirdi Sai Baba, and that he would henceforth be known as Sai Baba.

Sai Baba's ashram, built by his devotees close to the village where he was born, was inaugurated on 23 November 1950. It is called Prasanthi Nilayam (Abode of Divine Peace). It has been the gathering place of millions of spiritual pilgrims of various faiths from all over the world.

During the period 14–23 November 1995, the celebrations for the 70th birthday of Sathya Sai Baba took place in Prasanthi Nilayam. More than one million people, including the President and Prime Minister of India, assembled in Prasanthi Nilayam to pay homage to Sathya Sai Baba during these celebrations.

Today, the Sai Organisation claims over 1,200 Sathya Sai Baba centres, spread through 137 countries around the world.

It is fair to say that Sai Baba is a highly revered spiritual leader, whose life and message has inspired millions of people throughout the world to turn Godward and lead more purposeful and moral lives. The stories of his "miracles" are many and legendary in their telling and retelling. Scores of famous Westerners have added their own exciting synchronistic accounts of how Sai Baba saved them from certain death by "appearing" before them at crucial moments. Accounts of Sai Baba-related manifestations and materialisations are also widespread, adding to the air that Sai Baba is literally the reappearance of God on Earth.

Unfortunately, this is where the fairytale ends.

A growing number of boys and young men are coming forward with allegations of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and rape. And now that attention has been focused on the Swami, one finds many more accounts of faked miracles, suspicious deaths, massive financial fraud, weapons and explosives being found in the ashram, an assassination attempt, and yet more cases of paedophilia and homosexual abuse.

With news of these events and other incidents, the seeds of doubt have been sown in many minds. How is it that Sai Baba's own brother-in-law died of rabies? Why did Baba have to be hospitalised for a ruptured appendix and a broken leg? Why does he travel in Mercedes cars and require heavy protection? Why does Sai Baba have to wave his hand in circles before producing anything? Does his occasional transvestism and derision for women really illustrate the male-female principle of the universe?

It is possible we will never find the real truth to many of the above rumours and allegations, with the exception of the sexual abuse cases. We have extracted the following accounts from just three of the many testimonies now emerging. We have also spoken to many former long-term devotees who have now left the organisation.

For those wishing to pursue the matter further, we suggest as a starting point that you get onto the Internet and visit <http://www.myfreeoffice.com/saibabaexposed/>.

Let me emphasise that this information does not reflect one or two disgruntled devotees "who did not get enough attention". It reflects the fact that many, many boys and young men have been sexually abused by someone in whom they gave their total trust. Their silence was maintained because the victims knew that no one would believe them.

I hope this article can rectify that situation somewhat.

— Duncan M. Roads (Editor)

TERRY GALLAGHER'S TESTIMONY

What began as a wonderful spiritual journey ended with total disbelief and bitter disappointment when we found out the truth.

Perhaps I should start at the beginning with a brief account of that journey. After reading a book called *Man of Miracles*, I set off for India (and Puttaparthi) with my wife and three young daughters, in an organised group for Christmas 1983.

What we found when we arrived in India was something I had been searching for all my life: the most beautiful, peaceful atmosphere, with wonderful people searching for their own spiritual truth, living in a community whose whole objective was that of improving self-awareness and achieving self-realisation through the teachings of a living guru—Sai Baba.

Adjacent to the ashram, and provided free of cost to the students, was a primary school for boys and girls, and various colleges for boys where spiritual teachings were incorporated into the normal academic disciplines.

We were all very impressed and motivated towards learning as much as possible about what Sai Baba had to teach us.

The celebration of Christmas came and went, after which our family was called for an interview with Sai Baba. As a result of this interview and what appeared at the time to be the most perfect environment for students and devotees to advance their spiritual lives, I made a substantial donation to the Central Trust to help them fund their educational programs.

Upon leaving the interview, I was told by Sai Baba that I should sit on the verandah of the mandir in future, with students from the colleges and other devotees. As it turned out, this gave me the opportunity to meet people and observe events very closely that I otherwise might not have had the opportunity to do.

We all had mixed feelings when we had to leave the ashram and return to Australia—sad in having to leave, and joy in what we had experienced. We returned to the ashram again in 1985 for one month; and then in 1986 we stayed for seven months, at which time our daughters attended Sai Baba's school.

It was during this time that I began to observe things that made me question what I had experienced on previous visits. Having a scientific background, I began to observe a set routine that Sai Baba followed each morning and evening during darshan and, in particular, how he materialised *vibhuti* (holy ash).

I will never forget the look of anguish on Sai Baba's face when he came onto the verandah of the *mandir* early one morning and dropped two *vibhuti* pellets in front of me as he attempted to accept a rose from a college student. There was no *vibhuti* materialisation during *darshan* that morning!

In the months that followed, I observed how he transferred these *vibhuti* pellets from one hand to the other, using the letters he collects from devotees to disguise his movements. In the many interviews that followed, I also observed more than thirty instances of rings, "diamonds", *japamalas*, *vibhuti* containers, etc., all being produced by sleight of hand and deception.

At first I kept this information to myself. I reasoned that if this was what made people come to see Sai Baba, resulting in their becoming more spiritual, what harm could it do? Eventually I told my wife and children, who also saw through this

"materialisation" trickery. It was the observations and information that followed on from these initial findings that concerned me most, especially those relating to students being sexually interfered with in grotesque ways by Sai Baba.

We returned to the ashram several times during the following years, making further observations and having these confirmed by college students and long-term devotees living at the ashram. During this time, I was the Central Coordinator for three years for the Sathya Sai Organisation in Australia.

It wasn't until 1993, following the [6 June] assassination attempt on Sai Baba, resulting in the murder of four college students and two assistants in the mandir, that we made our last visit to India.

The purpose of this visit was to find the reason why former students of Sai Baba's college would want to kill him, particularly when they had been given a free education!

The eyewitness accounts were horrific! After bursting into the mandir, four students found themselves trapped upstairs where Sai Baba was staying. Each was interrogated by police, then one at a time they were executed. The stench of death was everywhere.

I made further inquiries about Sai Baba having sexual relations

with college boys and male students—some of these as young as seven years of age—and whether this was the reason for former students wanting to kill him. I was told, to my horror, that this was an acceptable Indian practice!

I felt sick, and just wanted to take my family and leave the ashram and India as quickly as possible.

Before we did, we were all called for interview with Sai Baba, and we told him what we had experienced and been told.

Sai Baba made no comment on our accusations and was only anxious to

know who had told us these details, requesting us to tell him several times! Having had dozens of interviews over the years, this was the most stressful and uncomfortable interview our family had ever experienced.

Sai Baba was tense and agitated, and his body language told us all that what we had found out about him was the truth! We left the interview and returned to Australia.

The following years were very difficult spiritually; we concentrated on all the positive aspects we had experienced over the past ten years and found this comforting.

When we attempted to tell others about our experiences and the truth about Sai Baba, no one would believe us, except those who had also had similar experiences—and mostly fear prevents them from telling others.

It has only been in the past twelve months that former students and devotees of Sai Baba have begun communicating with each other, confirming experiences to be true and supporting each other spiritually and emotionally when necessary.

I now know the truth about Sai Baba and sincerely pray that others, too, will follow both their logic and intuition and also find the truth.

Terry Gallagher

Ex-Central Coordinator of Sathya Sai Organisation, Australia

(Source: Terry Gallagher's letter to Faye and David Bailey, The Quarterly, UK, www.myfreeoffice.com/saibabaexposed/)

"In the many interviews that followed, I also observed more than thirty instances of rings, 'diamonds', vibhuti containers... all being produced by sleight of hand and deception."

HANS DE KRAKER'S TESTIMONY

I travelled to India extensively for a period of four years. During this period (1992–94), I had many (35) private audiences with Sai Baba.

I got to know him in 1988 through a friend in Italy who had passed on a book. After about four years, I made my first trip to India with my girlfriend, mother and father. The years that followed were making for some very intense years in my life.

Sai Baba, fairly much from the first private audience, had suggested to me and my girlfriend that we were to split up from each other for our own good. He did this in a very public and embarrassing way, purposely humiliating my girlfriend and myself. We had built a lot of "faith and mystery" around him and had by now accepted him as a God incarnate on Earth, the epitome of spirituality, the epitome of human divine spiritual expression.

There were many books written by people from all parts of the world that spoke about miracle after miracle. People had been cured from fatal diseases by virtue of touching jewellery "materialised by Swami". He "appeared" in front of people in all different parts of the world. Millions of people travelled to India to see "God on Earth". Millions of people came and cried upon his sight; some were cured of their illnesses, some were freed of their anxieties of life, and some died in peace. Some left laden with trinkets or real golden rings, watches, pendants, all "materialised by Swami".

Sai Baba has been enjoying a lot of popularity in the West. He has a great ability to play with and communicate to large crowds of people. It is this particular power that allows him to manipulate people. It takes a Great Man not to abuse this power...

During these four years of travels to India, Sai Baba would perform a certain ritual each time he would call me in for a private audience or interview. He would ask me to take down my pants. He would then "oint" my umbilical area, testicles and penis with oil which he "materialised". After this ritual, he would ask me to pull up my pants and tidy them up. I had heard of this ritual and it seemed to be "common knowledge" that this was done to balance the sexual energy or *kundalini*. I had never thought anything of it. When I was in Elementary School in Holland, the school doctor used to check and touch your testicles to see if you were growing properly. I likened this ritual to a visit to the doctor. It was just for a different purpose. Very unassumingly I continued to receive this treatment, convinced it was going to do me some good!

Each and every trip he would "materialise" trinkets, jewellery, vibhuti and oil. I noticed that he was particularly generous with the people that donated a lot of money or equipment for the various kitchens in the ashram. I did also notice that he would call in a lot of young guys out of the crowd, and never girls.

In one particular interview, I saw him take a ring from under the handkerchief that was on the armrest of his chair. I thought not much of it. I never really attached much value to the materialisations and knew that the receiver was going to be an ecstatically happy person... Shortly after, one of my friends in the group said to me: "Gosh, what a test! Swami wanted to show me that he did not materialise the ring, but that he took it from under his handkerchief! Isn't he funny! He is really testing us!" I did not give it any focus; I never had focused much on these materialisations,

and the thought of accepting that he was not actually materialising these objects was probably very unattractive, tough for my mind. I had also received a ring, two bracelets and a necklace, so I guess I had satisfied that desire!

Through the years I got more and more attention on a personal level from Sai Baba. This went accompanied with receiving VIP seating for doing work in the kitchen. As the crowds grew over the years, it became increasingly difficult to see "Swami" up close. There was a preferred seating area for people who worked in the kitchen, since they were not able to "do the lines". They often worked until 30 minutes before darshan. Arriving that late, they would always find themselves sitting in the back of the large crowd, so by getting this "reserved seat" they were able every now and then to have a close encounter with "the Master". These groups were organised in lines of two or three and rotated so that everybody got a fair chance. Although initially I was very much against this way of operating, I succumbed to my desire to get a close encounter with "the Master" and accepted a preferred seat the third time it was offered to me.

After two years I had become a "steady member" of a group that would travel to India three times a year to do volunteer work in the ashram. The group would cook food for up to 6,000 people around the festivals and various multi-religious celebrations (Christmas, Shivaratri, etc.). The group would bring thousands of kilos of food at its own expense as well as a lot of industrial kitchen machinery, etc. There were many other groups that brought help in some form or shape, and it was beautiful to be part of this enormous "collective effort".

Our group had a place of its own. We did not have to wait in line and

always had front-row seating. On some occasions (on festivals and celebrations), we were even allowed to sit on the verandah. We would always get to see "Swami" from up-close and feel very fortunate. The ego was certainly satisfied with this powerful position! So many people wanted to be close to him. Millions of people travelled to get a glimpse of him, and here we were right up front! It is incredible how the mind comes up with justifications when it suits our personal purpose.

In my last trip to India (November 1996), I arrived early from Australia and my friends from Europe had not arrived yet. The usual kitchen managers were no longer running the kitchen. Upon arrival, Sai Baba asked me to reopen the western canteen and start making food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I collected a group of people and started working. (I was ordered/recommended by ashram management not to allow any Sri Lankans in the kitchen! All people I appointed were screened by the management.) Several days later, my friends from Europe joined me.

We had several interviews together. It was around 10 December that they left, except for one of my close friends. We spent some beautiful moments together. It was almost as if we were like the apostles around Jesus. We were moved even further ahead now and we were seated in the ashram management area, very close to the front. Sai Baba came to us every and each *darshan* and would have a chat with us. These were very special moments. We felt very privileged.

The day of my friend's departure, we were called in for an interview together. Sai Baba materialised another bracelet for my

"He would then 'oint' my umbilical area, testicles and penis with oil which he 'materialised'."

friend and for me. In this same trip, he had "materialised" (one of my friends was "tested" and saw him bring the object from the neighbouring room) a jar of amrita, "divine nectar", with a spoon which he used to give us all a spoonful, after which he said: "From now on, no more bad karma and no more bad luck in your life. You are very special people; this is a privilege! There are so many people out there and you are the lucky ones!" When I asked him why, he said that all our hearts were pure and that there was not self-interest involved in the work we did (we had many power-struggles and quarrels over positions in the group, just like any other group of humans may have).

My friend had now left. I was by myself and was called in a few days after he had left. I went into the interview room and was given a private audience in a separate room. When in this separate room, he asked me how things were in Australia. He told me that he would give me everything: money, a house, a wife—everything!

He then signs me to come closer and hug him. He then hugs me (I am on my knees and he is seated on his chair; there are no people present). He now turns his face and puts his lips on mine; my head is spinning and my mind is running at 500 kilometres per hour. I don't know what to do! My mouth tightens up, and I feel extremely uncomfortable and confused with this "perceived incarnation of *God* on Earth trying to kiss me on and in my mouth! Sai Baba slaps me on my cheek and says: "Loosen up! With other people, not okay; with Sai Baba, okay." I am even more uncomfortable now and feel disgusted at the same time.

Sai Baba realises his and my predicament and decides not to continue. He now tells me again that he will give me everything, and stands up and tells me to do *padnamnamaskaar*. As I go on my knees and touch his feet with my forehead, he pulls up my arms and indicates he wants his calf muscles massaged.

Although very uncomfortable with everything that had happened, I still continued to listen to him. Many people knew how he liked having his calf muscles massaged and I had seen respectable men and women of all walks of life do the same thing...

He now takes my head and pushes it quite firmly into his groin... He then pulls up my arms and asks me to go higher and higher... Now I am holding his buttocks and wonder what the hell my Divine Master is asking me to do! I let go my arms and now I am even more shell-shocked...

He pulls up his dress, presents me his half-erect penis and invites me to take up my "good luck chance": "This is your good luck chance."

I am now on my knees facing his erect penis, being asked to perform oral sex. He stands there, and I think: Am I supposed to do this? Could I do this?

I then instinctively stretch out my right arm and put it on the part of his chest which hides his heart, and say: "I don't want this, Swami; I want your heart."

He now drops his dress and tells me: "Yes, yes, yes; of course you have my heart."

He now asks me to take my pants down, "discovers" my penis

is not erect and tells me that that is how it is supposed to be!

"Swami is inside there, see; Swami is inside there."

Hell no! That is mine and mine! And you are certainly not in there, I thought.

He asks me to do *padnamnamaskaar* again, and again he pulls up his dress. "This is your second good luck chance," he says.

I refuse and get up without saying anything.

I am now angry, confused and dazed. I feel burning! God just took a back door! A very clever manipulator and professional deceiver had just trashed the fundamentals of the past eight years of my life. I had abstained from any sexual activity because he had suggested it was good for my spiritual evolution. He had harassed and embarrassed my girlfriend and myself because of our difference in age, while he was hitting on someone 42 years his junior. He had told us to break up our relationship, and for what reason? So he could have a go?

In reality, I pulled the carpet myself from under a mental castle which I had built myself. I am responsible for that. He is responsible for abusing the good faith of people, their trust, to the point of putting their life on the line and actually losing it.

He asks me to keep this quiet, not to say anything to anyone.

I walked out of the interview room and ran to my room. I locked myself in. I blacked out until 6 am the next morning (from 5 pm the day before).

A few weeks passed. There was a big power shake-up in the kitchen and I had no interest to participate in the whole situation any longer. I had a chat with the leader of the group because I had not been going to darshan any more.

My last day in the ashram, I talked to the leader of the group. She insisted that I tell her what happened. "So did he try to have sex with you?" was the question. Tired of it all, I told her

what had happened. This was the evening of 4 or 5 January 1997. Immediately afterwards she had an interview with Sai Baba, by herself this time.

After she came out of the interview room several hours later, I was summoned to meet with an elderly gentleman from Security, whom I knew well, with whom I had built a friendship. This gentleman looked very awkward and asked me if he could take my photo. I said "Of course"—not knowing what was happening, but understanding something had gone wrong. He was accompanied by two *seva dals*. One of them took a picture from the front and then asked me to turn to the side. When I asked my friend what was happening, he nodded uncomfortably and said "I don't know".

They then escorted me to the secretary of the ashram who told me I was ordered to leave as soon as possible. I had behaved improperly and had to leave. When I asked what the reason was, he commanded that I was not allowed to ask anything, and that I was only allowed to leave. "You are to leave the ashram. You are strongly advised not to hang around the village, but to go as soon as possible to Bangalore and catch the first flight out."

I left...

Hans de Kraker
Australia, 19 May 2000

(Source: Letter to Faye and David Bailey, The Quarterly, UK)

JENS & GURPRIT SETHI'S TESTIMONY

I am giving you a thorough account of my traumatic experiences with Sathya Sai Baba and hope that this will help people understand what he is all about. All the details are the truth and can be seen as testimony. I could and would testify to the following in an open court.

I am thirty-five years old and have been interested in spiritual matters since my childhood. For a long time I worshipped Jesus and Padre Pio; then after reading Yogananda's *Autobiography of a Yogi*, I turned towards the yogic path.

In October 1988, I became an ardent follower of Sathya Sai Baba, and came to Puttaparthi for the first time in September 1989. Since then, I visited Puttaparthi regularly every year and was totally absorbed in the "aura" of Sai Baba. I was fully convinced of his avatarhood and became so devoted that I was thinking and contemplating all the time about him alone.

In 1989, I read *Lord of the Air* [Lion Publishing, Herts., UK, 1976] by Tal Brooks, a young male USA ex-devotee who wrote of Sai Baba's sexual abuse of him, but I did not believe, thinking "Tal only wants to decry Baba".

Over the years, I had hundreds of darshans but never an interview. In 1993, I became a little suspicious about Sai Baba's lifestyle and the activities in the ashram. Every year I could see costly new buildings and felt an increasing commercialisation was going on. In 1996, I saw Sai Baba leaving the ashram in an expensive Jaguar and other costly cars like Mercedes and BMW of the big class. But I still believed him to be the Kali avatar of the age.

On 17 January 1996, I got my first interview and he was very kind, telling me nice things like "I will give you everything" as he touched and stroked my head. He said: "I know you're not sure about your life and future and so on. Also, unhappiness from women. I know, don't worry. Also, you have some bad thoughts, not good." Then he said: "I give you everything according to health, spirituality and life. Everything. I give you infinite love. You and me will become one." I touched his robe and he put his hand on the top of my head, saying "I give you separate interview".

On 20 January 1996, I got the second interview. Already, days before, he had established a strange eye-contact with me, indicating the coming interview. My wife and I went to the interview and he acted very disappointed at seeing me together with my wife. He took me alone into the interview room and said: "She is diseased and much older than you. Please separate from her." I was really shocked, and replied: "She is attached to me."

I asked him to give her some spiritual instruction, which he readily agreed to do, but he had something else on his mind.

Without asking permission, he started kissing me on my lips for some time, and later asked me to open my trousers and he "materialised" some oil which he rubbed on the skin above my genitals. I felt very bad about all of this, but accepted, as I fully trusted Sai Baba.

Then he took my wife into the private interview room alone, and told her: "Either you separate from the boy or I throw you out of Puttaparthi!" He appeared wild and furious (my wife told me afterwards) and she shivered all over. When she reappeared in a very short time, looking red-faced and very scared, nobody dared ask her what had happened in there.

He saw me again some days later in darshan and asked whether

I had separated or not. I said: "Not yet." He turned away and shouted, so all people could hear: "Bad, bad boy!" He was so aggressive and seemed to radiate such an aura of evil that I was really shocked. We immediately left and went to northern India for some pilgrimage.

This was a turning point, but after a time I decided to go once more to Sai Baba to clarify the matter. At the end of 1996, I returned to India and got an interview on 4 December... [I]n the private room, the greedy old man kissed me again directly and continuously on my lips for about twenty seconds and gently stroked my back. By now I was certain that something was very wrong.

On 28 December, I was again called for an interview and he produced a golden ring which didn't fit well on my finger in spite of his blowing on it. In the private chamber he said "Come!", and again kissed me on the lips for some time as before. This time I resisted, and he gurgled: "Have no fear." I said: "I have no fear." Then he said: "This is a good opportunity; so many waiting for

months and will not get." This baffled me. I'm sure people don't wait for mouth kisses in Puttaparthi.

Then his mood totally changed and I did have some fear. He commanded me to remove my trousers; he unzipped my fly and went with his right hand into my underpants. Sathya Sai Baba, "the divine", touched and massaged my genitals unasked. He expected some erection, but this didn't happen for I didn't feel any sexual excitement, no lust in the presence of a seventy-years-old man. I was really

disgusted. Then he had the impudence to say: "It is very weak; don't waste energy." When I looked at him, I realised the truth about him and was shocked indeed. Soon afterwards, without another word, he sent me out of the room.

Back in Germany I did intense research on the Internet and came across an article from Jed Geyerhahn and was very relieved to have found somebody with similar experiences.

As I still had some luggage in Puttaparthi, I returned in [late October] 1999 to collect it, taking with me two Internet pages to discuss with some friends there. Unfortunately, a lady came into possession of the material and took it to the Puttaparthi police station. Then I went through several interrogations with the police there... [who] took my passport away... I had another appointment on 1 November with the police, which was the day I intended to go to Delhi, but without my passport it would not be possible.

On 30 October, late in the evening, two people whom I know and an unknown person came to our unit and one of them warned me that my life was in danger and I should leave immediately...

So we escaped and reached Delhi, and went immediately to the German Embassy. I got a travel document after telling them of my experience, and the embassy official said a protest note would be sent to the Indian Government. He told me such an act is illegal and they knew of similar cases...

I hope that this nightmare comes to an end; and I hope that by the grace of the Almighty, all people round the globe may know about the misdeeds of Sai Baba... He is a master—of deception.

Jens and Gurprit Sethi
Munich, Germany

(Source: Jens & Gurprit Sethi's letter to Faye and David Bailey, The Quarterly, UK, www.myfreeoffice.com/saibabaexposed/)

"He commanded me to remove my trousers; he unzipped my fly and went with his right hand into my underpants."



NEW LIGHT ON THE WINGMAKERS WEBSITE

Since we published the WingMakers web site extracts in NEXUS 6/03 (April-May 1999 issue), we have received numerous requests from readers for follow-up news. Up until recently we had heard nothing, but then we received the following item which sheds some light on surrounding circumstances.

— Editor

by Kerry M. Knight © May 2000

Twenty-seven years ago, mysterious artifacts were found in a remote cavern located in northern New Mexico, USA. The discovery consisted of 23 chambers hollowed out deep within a huge natural bedrock structure in a remote canyon.

A secret, unacknowledged faction of the National Security Agency (NSA), known only as the Advanced Contact Intelligence Organization (ACIO), undertook authority for the project, dubbed *Ancient Arrow*.

Recovered within the chambers were wall paintings, various alien technologies, encoded hieroglyphs and an optical disc with tracks of encoded music. To the researchers, this became known as the Extraterrestrial Time Capsule (ETC). It was determined that the time capsule was designed and built by "a future version of humankind who were adept at interactive

time travel". This advanced race called themselves "the WingMakers".

In 1997, a scientist by the name of Dr Anderson allegedly defected and reported the ACIO's findings to a journalist under the pseudonym of Anne. Since 1998, this information has been available via the World Wide Web at the website www.wingmakers.com.

"I have never met them in person but have talked with one of them on the phone. This group is media-shy and they do not want to be known."

Mark Hempel, a partner and co-founder of the Minnesota-based information technology company South Bay Group, is the webmaster of the domain under copyright acquisition of 1998. Hempel is also one of the few individuals who have been in contact with an anonymous group attributed to

all WingMakers information.

Hempel's participation with WingMakers began when he was given information by a group of individuals who have maintained anonymity for various reasons—reasons that have not all been explained. His contact with this group came from a mutual acquaintance and clients working within the Department of Defense (DoD). Hempel was chosen by the group to host the site as their technical liaison, and became a tool to post the information via the Internet.

"They paid me to host the site, no questions asked," said Hempel. "When I received the original materials from the group, they included four CD-ROM discs."

The first CD was essentially the website, the second contained the music from chambers 1 to 23, and the final two discs were the photographs of the chamber paintings.

"I have never met them in person but have talked with one of them on the phone," continued Hempel. "This group is media-shy and they do not want to be known. I have been impressed with the woman I have spoken with. She's very polite, articulate and quiet. Initially she told me she was a member of an art group based in northern Europe."

The woman later dismissed her original statement as misinformation, acknowledging she was not an artist and had no dealings in the art world. Hempel was never

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

told her profession. Nevertheless, he received the WingMakers package and was asked to host the site.

"I'm still being paid to monitor the site and ensure its safekeeping. The group prefers to remain anonymous, and that's fine with me."

Every month, Hempel receives a telephone call by the same woman to "check in" for updates on security problems, if any.

"There have been some attacks on the site pertaining to the interview transcripts, and some photos were misappropriated and others were added mysteriously," remarked Hempel.

There is much more content yet to be released by the group, but so far it has not been made available, other than the new music (chambers 11 to 17) and the third interview.

"I haven't been given permission to publish these on the site at this time," Hempel said.

On 24 November 1998, an alt.art.video newsgroup posting appeared on the Internet, suspected to have been written by Hempel himself. This posting claimed that he manufactured all the content and that WingMakers was in fact an experimental Immersive Multimedia Art Form (IMAF) intended as a blueprint for film or television.

When the site was launched the same month, "There was a slew of e-mails and reports about me in various newsgroups,"

Hempel said. "I did not write them. I am familiar with the IMAF e-mail, but it was not written by me."

Later that year, Hempel put copyright notice on all WingMakers artwork and music to discourage any pirating behaviour on the Internet. In reality, no "official" rights were granted.

WingMakers art and music files, along with newly released tracks from chambers

"I can only tell you that the quality of the music and art is of superior resolution, and it's not something that was put together in a garage. Whoever created it had top-quality gear and digital systems."

11 to 17, eventually ended up in the hands of SoulFood Ltd music company for commercial distribution.

"There is no relationship between WingMakers and SoulFood Media," Hempel explained, "other than the fact that they were chosen by this group to distribute their music anonymously. SoulFood is the distributor of the music."

Contrary to many people's beliefs,

Hempel affirms that SoulFood did not engineer or manufacture the music itself—this stemming from the fact that Hempel's name appears on the liner notes to a CD titled *Breathe*, produced by SoulFood.

When asked to comment on the origins of the music, Hempel replied: "The origins of the music are anonymous. As I understand it, SoulFood is releasing the music for chambers 11 to 17 [not currently available on the website] in June."

While SoulFood is a commercial organisation, it operates more like a non-profit music co-op.

"I believe SoulFood was chosen because of its commitment to indigenous music forms, and its owner, Gordy Schaeffer, is somehow connected to the group behind the WingMakers website. SoulFood, as I understand it, was also given permission to use some of the artwork and music from the actual site in New Mexico."

When contacted for further information, Heidi Schaeffer of SoulFood Ltd stated: "SoulFood was given permission by Mark Hempel, the webmaster of the site, to distribute the new music and use the WingMakers art," adding, "We have also been given exclusive rights to distribute the new music."

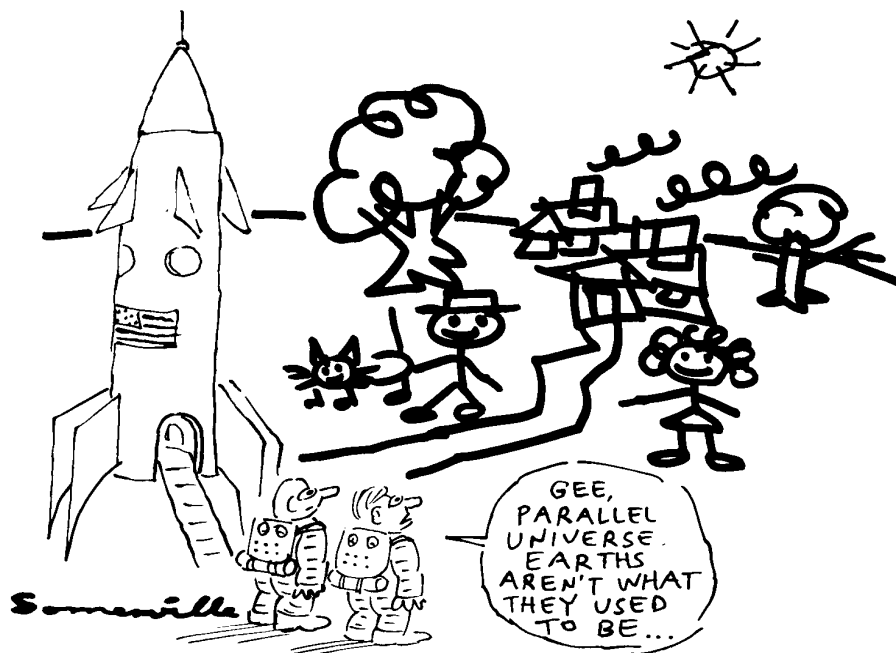
When asked about this, Hempel replied: "It's true that they needed my help to get some of the music and artwork together, but I don't look at it as 'permission'. I assume Heidi does not want to disclose anything about this group. I believe it was an agreement made between them and SoulFood."

Hempel admits to having very large files of all the artwork which he distributed to SoulFood for the WingMakers album cover, along with WingMakers music files for mastering.

"I can only tell you that the quality of the music and art is of superior resolution, and it's not something that was put together in a garage. Whoever created it had top-quality gear and digital systems."

Hempel said the reason he is looked upon by the group as their technical liaison is that they prefer not to deal with media or commercial interests and feel it necessary to stay out of the global "limelight". There was no need for it, he further stated.

"They've given me everything I need to host the site, and I in turn work with their agents like SoulFood to get the material out per their direction."



However, when contacted about the company's involvement with WingMakers, Gordy Schaeffer remarked: "On one level, SoulFood has been working for three years decoding optical data and converting it into frequencies."

In fact, SoulFood had nothing to do with the optical translations. According to Hempel, the three years Schaeffer was referring to is reflective of what the group told him and not his personal time.

"The music was sent to me complete," said Hempel.

Schaeffer was tasked with mastering it for commercial purposes, production of the disc's packaging and its distribution to the market.

Hempel acknowledged the fact that Schaeffer may have been leaking misinformation on his and SoulFood's role in the WingMaker's issue. "When he [Gordy] stated 'three years', he was providing, to some degree, misinformation [as to his involvement]; simply echoing information he received from this group."

When asked for a comment, Schaeffer replied: "I have no further information."

When asked to comment on the anonymous grouping aforementioned, Schaeffer adamantly stated: "I have no further information at this time. All the people involved are remaining anonymous for various reasons."

It has become a moot point that SoulFood Ltd is extremely nervous in discussing the WingMakers topic and tends to veer away from publicly speaking about it in great detail. WingMakers is a very obscure project within SoulFood, and the company has gone to great lengths to suppress any background information being revealed to the general public.

In 1999, Hempel was told that the group is currently working on a book to explain the real situation behind WingMakers and its surrounding controversy.

"I haven't read it; I just know they are planning to put it on the website some time this summer—available for free. I also believe that some of the information on the website is misinformation as well—at least in part—because she explained that the book was meant to be the 'true rendering' of the story, though it's written in a fictional context to protect identities. I was told I'd get the first few chapters in June, and the balance in the Fall."

Many questions arise in regard to the true identity of this group and the woman

with whom Hempel has been in contact. To dismay speculation from others, Hempel said that this woman has never claimed to be the journalist Anne or a real-life facsimile of her, or to have any relation with the so-called ACIO.

"I've never actually asked her," admitted Hempel, but added: "I've worked with enough government agencies to know when to ask and when not to ask questions."

As Hempel indicated, it does not matter.

"As long as she provides me with income and manages to provide good content on her website, I'll help her while respecting her desire for anonymity."

(Source: *Written by Kerry M. Knight, knightk@sentex.net, 27 May 2000*)

MORE NEWS FROM THE WINGMAKERS WEBMASTER

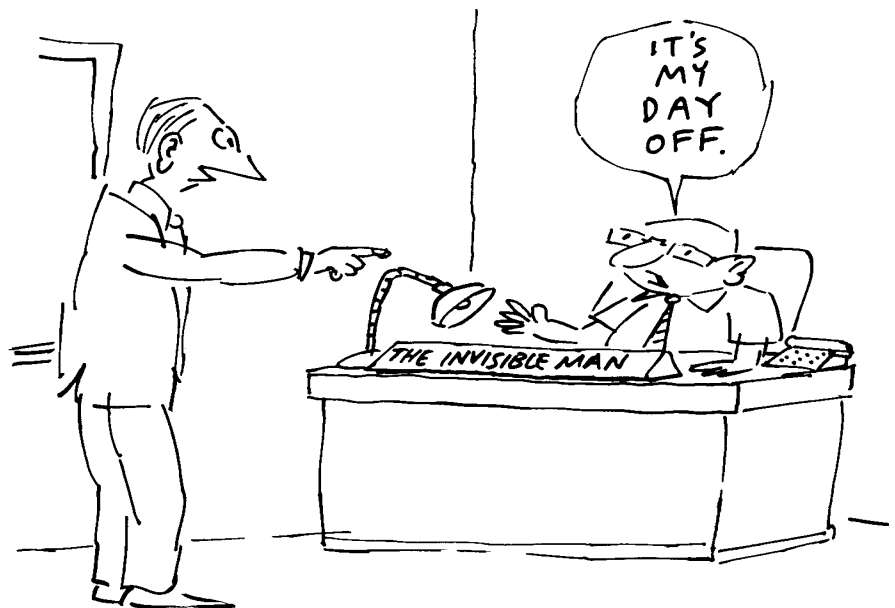
When we received Kerry Knight's item, I thought it best to contact Mark Hempel and check his understanding of the facts as presented. What follows are the e-mail communications between Mark and myself, reprinted with his permission. We'll keep you updated on further developments when we hear of them.

— Editor

3 July 2000

To: Mark Hempel, mhempel@southbaygroup.com

Dear Mark,



Somerville

I am wanting to run the following update on the WingMakers piece which we ran in an earlier edition of NEXUS.

I want to run the article by you first, as you are mentioned many times in it. Please let me know if you are happy with what is attributed to you, etc.

Look forward to your earliest reply.

Kind regards,

Duncan

(Article follows...)

3 July 2000

From: Mark Hempel

Dear Duncan,

Thanks for sending the article. I don't have any problems with its content. I can update you on a few things.

1) I have received a 1,050-page book, and have been given instructions to publish the first 250 pages on the WingMakers website in mid-July. I've read the complete book, and it's extremely interesting. It's written in a fictional context—much like a science fiction novel—and it details the discovery of the Ancient Arrow site, the ACIO and the WingMakers. It will be made available for free. I'll probably make it available in a PDF format. Should be up in about two weeks.

I'm told that there are two versions: one anonymous and one that supposedly reports the facts (names, places, etc.). I have the former version, and that's the one that will be posted on the site.

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2) With regard to the music, I'd like to add the following details. Each file/composition had between 80–100 digital sound samples that were "musically" arranged on the discs I was originally sent. In this sense, they were "complete".

These same files were given to a company called SoulFood Media to produce and distribute. A gentleman by the name of Gordy Schaeffer (the owner of SoulFood Media) produced the music files, but had to edit the files and reduce them because he couldn't layer 80 different instrumentation/vocal tracks simultaneously without muddying the music. In this process, he also arranged the music samples or "layers" with a more commercial sound.

The original files were not very commercial-sounding, though the fidelity was outstanding. I heard the files in their original state and could sense the melodies, but it wasn't until after their production that they became musical—at least by my ear's standards.

Also, I have known Gordy for about four years, before I ever got the discs or knew about the WingMakers. I referred Gordy's organization to my contact, and they essentially hired him to produce/distribute the music. Gordy was an employee of mine when I was a founder of NetRadio Network. That's how I know him.

Hope this additional information helps.
Kind regards,
Mark

3 July 2000

To: Mark Hempel

Dear Mark,

Thanks for your early reply. Any chance that I may receive a copy of the full, second version of the book? Of course, I'll understand if you are not able or allowed to provide a copy, but I can't help asking. (If it is any help, I could promise not to pass on, or reprint, anything of the book whatsoever. I have to confess, the whole WingMakers scenario to date has certainly got my vote.)

Oops, nearly forgot: how much of the update you have just sent are you happy for us to put into print?

Kind regards,
Duncan

4 July 2000

From: Mark Hempel

Dear Duncan,

I'm in possession of the full, first (anonymous) version—not the second (factual) version. I was told by my contact that there are two versions; I haven't actually read or seen the second version. The implication was that they might post the second version later, but would let circumstances dictate it. This first version is accurate (so I'm told), but the places, names, etc. have been modified somewhat...I don't know to what extent.

As far as I'm concerned, you can print anything that I've mentioned. My contact

wants as many people as possible to read this book, which is why it'll be free. I'm not sure why they're only putting up the first quarter of the book. They have always held back in letting me publish things (e.g., the other interviews). They seem to have a timeline for letting the information out.

The artwork is a good example. I wish people could see these art files up close in their full resolution. They're layered just like the music files: within each composition there are paintings within paintings that aren't discernible in the JPEG format. But again, they have specifically instructed me not to disclose the hi-res files.

I've printed two of these files in a 5,000

"...it's the only piece of art I've ever seen that quite literally 'vacuums' your consciousness out of your body when you look at it intensely enough."

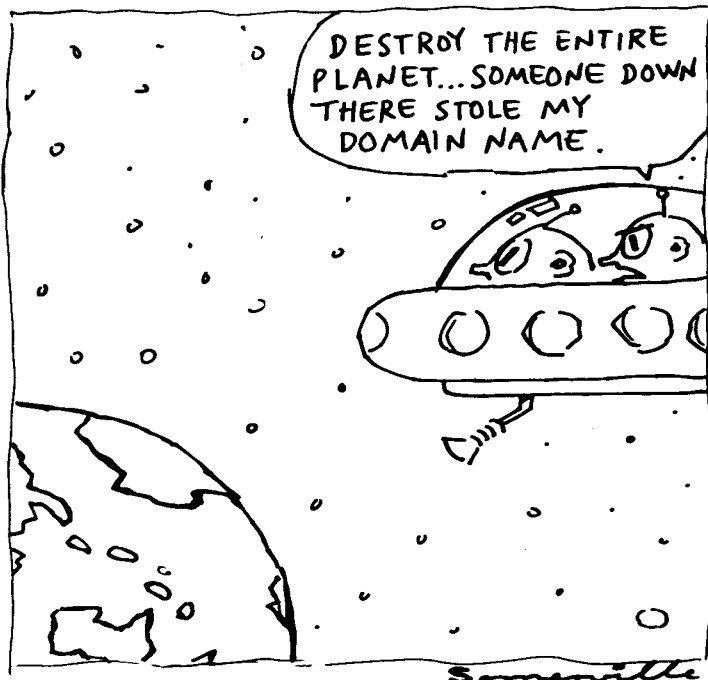
DPI format and I'm convinced that they could sell thousands of these prints if they wanted to. They're unbelievable in how they move the eye around and into the composition (I'm an avid art collector). I have one of these framed in my office, and anyone who sees it wants to buy a copy. I just tell them that it's from an anonymous artist whom I don't know how to contact (which is true). The other one I have at home, and it's the only piece of art I've ever seen that quite literally "vacuums" your consciousness out of your body when you look at it intensely enough.

Anyway, whenever I ask my contact about the artwork, she simply says it's not time to release the hi-res files. So, I get the impression that everything gets released according to some prescribed timeline. Obviously, they're in no hurry.

Hope this info helps, Duncan. Oh, and to your specific question: I can't release anything—even the first version of the book—until I'm given authorization. I have a few friends who beg me from time to time and they get the same response, if it's any consolation. Sorry.

Kind regards,
Mark

(This is all the information we have at NEXUS Magazine. For further developments we suggest you visit the WingMakers website on the internet, at www.wingmakers.com. Ed.)





REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN CHILDHOOD: Link to Vaccination by Viera Scheibner, PhD

Publisher: Dr V. Scheibner, Aust, 2000
ISBN: 0-9578007-0-3 (287pp tpb)
Price: AUD\$30.00; NZD\$49.00;
STG£15.00

Sources: **Australia**—Taycare, tel (02) 9144 6625, e-mail taycare@byronit.com;

Aust/NZ/UK—NEXUS offices

The increasing prevalence of neurological and behavioural disorders in children is due to vaccinations, argues Viera Scheibner, PhD. These have become worse in recent years with the vaccination of much younger children with increasingly toxic vaccine (and antibiotic) cocktails against diseases which actually boost natural immunity.

Since the 1993 publication of her first book, *Vaccination*, Dr Scheibner, a retired principal research scientist, has become a vocal anti-vaccination activist who has lectured in Australia and the UK and appeared as an expert witness in court cases. For her new book, *Behavioural Problems in Childhood*, she has assembled some disturbing medical data and identified a number of categories of disorders which are directly linked with vaccination regimens: disorders of motor, sensory and perceptual systems, of arousal, attention (e.g., ADD, ADHD), cognition and memory, of language and learning, drive, affect and socialisation, and of behaviour. These disorders are not generally recognised as being linked to vaccines. Fortunately, some medical professionals are now making a stand, e.g., over the MMR

vaccine link with autism and bowel disease (see deBriefings, NEXUS 7/04).

Dr Scheibner maintains that "vaccines are mind-altering toxic substances which can lead to addictions and criminality", and worries about the future of society when this overvaccinated and overmedicated generation comes of age. By being aware of this wealth of medical research linking behavioural problems and vaccination, parents can at least make a more informed choice about vaccination—or understand why their vaccinated children are behaving so erratically.

THE PSYCHIC BATTLEFIELD

by W. Adam Mandelbaum

Publisher: Vision Paperbacks, UK, 2000
ISBN: 1-9012-5046-6 (278pp tpb)

Price: £9.99 + £2.50 p&h in UK; o/s p&h, contact publisher; NLGf38,90; USD\$/n/a

Sources: **UK**—Satin Publications, tel 020 7323 9757, fax 020 7323 9749,

e-mail sheenadewan@compuserve.com;

TBS Ltd, tel 01206 255637; **Europe**—

NEXUS Office, tel +31 321 380558;

USA—St Martin's Press, tel (212) 674 5151

For as long as there have been war and diplomacy, there has existed an interweaving of the martial and the magical arts, says W. Adam Mandelbaum in *The Psychic Battlefield*. This makes the CIA's 1995 admission that it places no credence in psychic spying sheer disinformation. The US military/intelligence apparatus would never have put millions of dollars towards remote viewing as an intelligence-gathering tool had it seen no value in it. The Russians, who were taking psychic spying seriously, were giving them a run for their money.

Mandelbaum reminds us that military people are charged with seeking out and utilis-

ing any techniques that might give them the edge, but he does consider the moral stance in all this. He has coined a new expression, "the military-occult complex", to define the latter-day melding of this age-old symbiotic relationship. There's really not much qualitative difference between the warrior-wizard, the spy-sorcerer, the soldier-superman through the ages—whether in ancient India and Egypt, where astral battles were fought; in the Crusades, where the military used the supernatural; in Tudor England, where Elizabeth I received psychic military advice from John Dee; or in today's high-tech PsyWar era. A former intelligence officer based at Fort Meade, Mandelbaum did not participate in the RV program there but he knows many who did and has been investigating the paranormal and occult for years.

In this thoughtful exposé, Mandelbaum leaves us in no doubt that the future of warfare and espionage is the mind, particularly as remote viewing has been shown to work.



REVIEWS



BOOKS

DOOMSDAY: The Science of Catastrophic Events by Antony Milne

Publisher: Praeger Publishers, USA, 2000
ISBN: 0-275-96747-6 (198pp hc)
Price: £52.50; USD\$55.00 + p&h;
NLGf149,90

Sources: **UK**—Eurospan, tel 020 7240 0856; **Europe**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 321 380558; ; **USA**—Praeger, tel (203) 226 3571, website www.praeger.com

Catastrophism was once the mainstay of 18th-century geologists steeped in biblical tradition centred on the Great Flood. And as British science writer Antony Milne shows in his eighth book, *Doomsday*, the competing theory, uniformitarianism, can hardly stand up in the face of modern scientific knowledge of the Big Bang, black holes, or comet and asteroid impacts. The study of catastrophic events is now relevant in disciplines as diverse as anthropology, biology, climatology, mathematics, physics, palaeontology as well as geology.

Without getting unduly carried away by "end of the world is nigh" hype, Milne explains that catastrophes are an intrinsic part of the Earth's history, and some of them are recorded in ancient texts and oral traditions around the globe. He looks at the latest research into mass extinctions, massive floods, ice ages, seismic and volcanic events, solar and cosmic physics as well as statistics showing that natural disasters are on the increase globally. He also highlights evidence suggesting that recent climatic changes are precursors of an ice age, or at

least a mini ice-age to beset the planet within 100 years, and are not descriptive of a global warming trend. As an associate member of Spaceguard UK, Milne has a particular interest in near-Earth asteroids, so he devotes space to this study and the latest mathematical models that utilise complexity theory, probability theory and risk analysis to determine the chances and effects of a "doomsday missile" striking the planet.

Milne brings a well-balanced, rational approach to his highly readable examination of catastrophe science, and he is pragmatic in his warnings about future disasters.

WHEN THE GODS CAME DOWN by Alan Alford

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton, 2000
ISBN: 0-340-69616-8 (484pp hc)
Price: AUD\$54.75; NZD\$69.95; £20.00;
NLGf78,90

Sources: **Aust**—Hodder Headline; **NZ**—Hodder Moa Beckett; **UK**—Hodder & Stoughton, tel 020 7873 6000; **Europe**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 321 380558

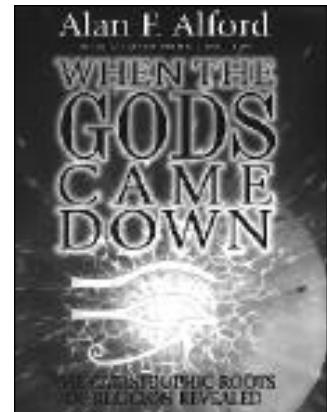
At the core of ancient mythologies and religions lies an esoteric truth that's been withheld from the masses through the ages, says Alan Alford in *When the Gods Came Down*. His hypothesis is that this truth originally described the explosion of a planet in our solar system between Mars and Jupiter, which caused a catastrophic raining down of meteorites to Earth. The explosion came to be interpreted as God or Heaven seeding the Earth with life.

The Sumerians may have recorded this event on their stone tablets, but the creation and heroic myths and religions that derived from them were embellishments designed for popular consumption, the whole truth

reserved only for adepts in the mysteries. Thus, Alford says, the Assyrian, Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek, Hebrew and Christian religious traditions all stemmed from this ancient knowledge but perpetrated only half-truths. The story of Jesus, the Son (Seed) of Man, was a rewrite of this catastrophe and was re-enacted in his day as an esoteric passion play, Alford maintains.

These traditional cover-ups are no longer good enough for today's educated, rational, curious minds that want to unlock the keys and get to the facts. Alford laments that mainstream science today is still too slow to acknowledge alternative catastrophe theories, e.g., that of astronomer Tom van Flandern, whose observations have led him to conclude that the asteroid belt is the result of a planetary explosion, or possibly a collision between two planetary bodies.

By analysing the ancient texts with a fresh approach, Alford explodes the myths that are intrinsic to religious beliefs. His thesis deserves attention, but be warned: you'll never look at religion the same way again.





REVIEWS

BOOKS

ADVERTISING AND THE MIND OF THE CONSUMER: What Works, What Doesn't, and Why

by Max Sutherland & Alice Sylvester

Publisher: Allen & Unwin, Australia, 2000 (2nd rev. ed.; 1st published 1993)

ISBN: 1-86508-231-7 (326pp tpb)

Price: AUD\$38.43; NZD\$45.00

Sources: **Aust**—Allen & Unwin, tel (02) 8425 0100, e-mail frontdesk@allen-unwin.com.au; **NZ**—Archetype Book Agents, tel (09) 377 3800

Like it or not, advertising is a powerful phenomenon in society. But rather than dwell on notions of mass mind manipulation, the authors of *Advertising and the Mind of the Consumer* analyse the subtleties and complexities of advertising (print, TV and radio) against new scientific research into memory and behaviour.

The fact is, people aren't compelled to go out and buy every product they see advertised, even if it's something they need. So what ads work, what ads don't and why? Advertising must be doing something to someone, but what, how and to whom? The answers are still all too elusive—incredible, considering that around US\$400 billion is spent on advertising annually around the world—but authors Max Sutherland and Alice Sylvester succeed in demystifying the subject and the myths behind it. Sutherland is a psychologist and advertising/marketing researcher who works in the US and Australia, and Sylvester is a high-profile US ad agency research/planning director and consultant. Both have spent time tracking

the effectiveness of ad campaigns.

This newly revised edition of their 1993 book includes more visuals from international ad campaigns plus new chapters on humorous ads (entertainment value vs brand recall), ad awareness measurement, and website advertising—a medium which upends many of the usual design rules. This book is aimed at ad designers, marketers and business people with products to sell, but has particular appeal for students of consumer psychology and the media.

ELECTRICAL NUTRITION

by Denie and Shelley Hiestand

Publisher: ShellDen Publishing, Bellevue, Washington, USA, 1999

ISBN: 0-9684928-1-9 (192pp tpb)

Price: USD\$14.95 + p&h; NLGf38,90

Sources: **USA**—ShellDen Publishing, tel 1800 207 2239 (toll free in US), (403) 314 2045, fax (917) 464 8128, e-mail info@vibrationalmedicine.com, website www.vibrationalmedicine.com; **Europe**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 321 380558

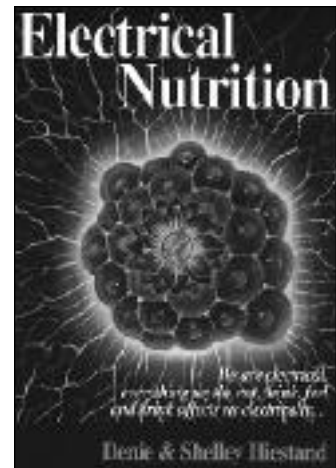
From an electrical nutrition viewpoint, the higher the vibration of the foods we eat, the greater the life force available to us. So say vibrational medicine practitioners Denie and Shelley Hiestand, US-based New Zealanders, in *Electrical Nutrition*.

Everything is energy and has an electrical matrix; so the more tampered-with a food is, the more ineffective it will be as an energy source. The authors summarise the processes involved in digestion and energy absorption, and ultimately these aren't chemical but electrical. In what will be seen as an affront to vegetarian beliefs, the authors conclude that animal flesh is the food with the highest vibratory rate and the greatest amount of life

force. Vegetation is seen as two steps lower on the life-force scale.

According to the authors' studies: protein is king (but should never be combined with carbohydrates); vegetables are largely underutilised (accessing cell-level nutrition requires proper chewing of raw veges); grains (particularly whole) are an electrical drain digestion-wise; fruit is the ideal breakfast (but only on its own); tofu is a total no-no, as are all processed foods as they are denatured and tend to be laden with excitotoxins (e.g., aspartame). This advice seems to confirm what the advocates of correct food combining have been saying all along!

Hopefully the authors will expand their arguments with further scientific backup in a follow-up book. Meantime, this one serves as an intriguing introduction, giving actionable advice for achieving vibrant health (and these authors certainly look glowing!). It may well completely overturn your views on what constitutes good diet.



REVIEWS



BOOKS

DEEP TIME: Cladistics, The Revolution in Evolution

by Henry Gee

Publisher: Fourth Estate, UK, 2000

ISBN: 1-85702-986-0 (262pp hc)

Price: AUD\$55.00; NZD\$70.00; £20.00; NLGf78,90

Sources: **Aust**—Allen & Unwin, tel (02) 8425 0100; **NZ**—Archetype, tel (09) 377 3800; **UK**—Fourth Estate, tel 020 7727 8993, website www.4thestate.co.uk; **Eur**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 321 380558

The term "deep time" was coined to distinguish geological time from the everyday scale of time and is meant to refer to immense intervals. Author Henry Gee, PhD, a senior editor at *Nature*, argues that to discuss time gaps of millions of years as if they were mere weeks or days in the geological time scale is absurd and unscientific. This attitude has coloured how we think about evolution. Our need for a neat historical narrative or drama which makes deep time comprehensible has led us to make false assumptions about time lines, cause-effect relationships, ancestry and descent.

Dr Gee is a proponent of cladistics, a system that looks at the pattern of the history of life, free from such assumptions and able to be tested. Cladistics has been gaining much favour among palaeontologists over the last 30 years, Gee writes in *Deep Time*, and the trend is at odds with the popular line pushed in the mass media. Rather than consider evolution in a linear way, cladistics looks to find the most likely way in which a set of organisms is related to one another.

Using branching diagrams called "cladograms", there is more than one way of working out how two organisms are linked. By considering choices, e.g., fish that developed legs to crawl ashore and fish that grew legs but stayed underwater, surprising new evolutionary possibilities are uncovered, and they don't necessarily follow the linear path of development. Gee says that cladistics can't provide rock-solid answers, but he shows how it is overturning our understanding about the life that's existed on this planet over the aeons and the place and progress of *Homo sapiens* in the vast picture.

TECHNOLOGY OF THE GODS: The Incredible Sciences of the Ancients

by David Hatcher Childress

Publisher: Adventures Unlimited, 2000

ISBN: 0-932813-73-9 (343pp tpb)

Price: AUD\$33.00; NZD\$34.90; £15.00; NLGf44,90; USD\$16.95 + p&h

Sources: **Australia/NZ/UK/Europe**—NEXUS offices; **USA**—Adventures Unlimited, tel (815) 253 6390

There is abundant evidence that ancient civilisations possessed varying degrees of advanced science and high technology. In *Technology of the Gods*, David Hatcher Childress examines the artefacts of long-gone civilisations and considers their origins in the light of published commentaries, peppering them with his own speculation plus plentiful photographs and illustrations.

Some of the inventions described are relatively recent, e.g., the Antikythera device, a Greek astronomical calculator dated to the first century BC; some are several thousand years old, e.g., the Baghdad battery and crystal lenses; and others are much more ancient, such as the baffling metal spheres

found in 2.8 billion-year-old strata in Africa.

Such artefacts suggest that the civilisations from which they sprang were far more inventive than generally acknowledged—though they don't necessarily prove that "the gods" were responsible. The "cyclopean" architecture, with a precision placement of weighty stones that is duplicated in places as far distant as northern Greece and Peru, still defies explanation. As for tapping energy, it's possible that the Ark of the Covenant was a free energy device and that the Great Pyramid a gigantic power plant. Even aviation and is not a modern invention, for India's Rama Empire had flying machines in antiquity and possibly engaged in atomic war with the Atlantean Empire, as the sacred texts and geological evidence suggest (see article extract this issue).

Is history merely repeating itself, as Childress proposes, and did past civilisations shine, only to extinguish themselves in their own self-made catastrophes?





REVIEWS

BOOKS

LES SENTIERS DES DIEUX/ PATHWAYS OF THE GODS Volume 1 by Neil Hudson Newman

Publisher: Garth Books, UK, 2000
ISBN: 1-903299-00-4 (170pp l/f pb)
Price: £16.76 inc. p&h; NLG£64,90
Source: **UK**—Garth Books, 649 Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1HP, tel 01189 508883, e-mail garthbooks@ic24.net

Analyses of France's Rennes-le-Château mystery do take much time and patience to delve through, and this work, *Les Sentiers des Dieux/Pathways of the Gods*, is no exception in this regard, though it does offer rewards for the true seeker.

This first volume by Neil Hudson Newman lays the groundwork in terms of sacred geometry, ancient systems of measurement, landscape mathematics and artefact deciphering, with the promise that the key to the mystery—perhaps the location of the famed buried treasure that Abbé Bérenger Saunière is believed to have stumbled upon—will be unlocked in the follow-up volume. We may have to wait a while for Newman's solution, but he presents many clues here which are original yet have resonance with works by Henry Lincoln, David Wood and other modern-day Rennes-le-Château researchers.

To simplify, Newman asks us to consider the expression of the angle $\sin^{-1}0.681$ as embodied within the Marie de Blanchefort gravestone text and two parchments supposedly discovered by Saunière, as well as the siting of the Tour Magdala in Rennes-le-Château and its angular relationship of $42.9218...^\circ$ North to a proximate line of latitude. He identifies a "point X" on a cliff

face—an intersection between the tower and an oratory in nearby Granès—that may contain the "tomb" which Saunière (1852 – 1917) had written about in his journal.

Apart from inspiring us with thoughts of treasure hunts, Newman hints at a much larger mathematics—geometric pathways that take in planetary dimensions, which he believes were understood by the inhabitants of the land at least 4,000 years ago.

WEB OF GOLD

by Guy Patton and Robin Mackness

Publisher: Sidgwick & Jackson, UK, 2000
ISBN: 0-283-06344-0 (348pp hc);
0-333-78321-2 (tpb)

Price: AUD\$54.84 (hc), \$30.70 (tpb);

NZD\$57.95 (hc), \$34.95 (tpb); £17.99

(hc); USD\$38.00 inc. p&h; NLG£70,90

Sources: **Aust/NZ/UK**—Pan Macmillan;

USA—NEXUS UK Office, tel +44 1342

322854, e-mail nexus@ukoffice.u-net.

com; **Europe**—NEXUS Office, tel +31 321

380558, e-mail info@fsf.nl

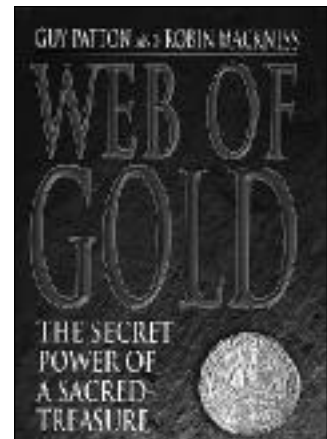
This is a tale of intrigue that has its beginnings with the sacking of the Temple of Jerusalem in AD 70 and continues through to today. *Web of Gold* is the story of a vast conspiratorial treasure-hunt for the fabulous wealth of the Jews, supposed to have been taken from Jerusalem, then Rome and to southern France by the Knights Templars during the First Crusade.

It examines the battles that are being fought between groups representing political, commercial and religious interests and the complex interplays between secret societies that are often at the heart of international intrigue. One of the key battles is being fought over the Rennes-le-Château mystery, popularised in the 1982 best-seller

The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail.

The authors began collaborating in 1996, after Guy Patton read Robin Mackness's book about the Nazi massacre at Oradour in the Pyrénées in 1944. Patton, who has been studying the Rennes-le-Château mystery for years, was able to shed more light on the occult significance of the Nazis' search for gold in that area. The web becomes more complex with the activities of the French secret society—the Priory of Sion—and its alleged support of Mitterand's campaign and his subsequent rise to power as President of France; its involvement with the Vatican's right-wing intelligence arm, Opus Dei; its shady dealings with the financial institutions of the Vatican and Switzerland; and its associations with other occult power groupings such as the Freemasons, Rosicrucians, Solar Templars and the Italian P2 fascists.

The story is still panning itself out on the world stage while the treasure remains hidden, but the authors have pulled together strands coming from unexpected places.



REVIEWS



BOOKS

FATHER ERNETTI'S CHRONOVISOR by Peter Krassa

Publisher: New Paradigm, USA, 2000
ISBN: 1-892138-02-6 (214pp tpb)
Price: AUD\$37.35; £13.99; USD\$16.95;
Sources: **Aust**—Banyan Tree Book
Distributors, tel (08) 8363 4244; **UK**—
Gazelle Book Service, tel 01524 68765;
Eur—NEXUS Office, tel +31 321 380558;
USA—New Paradigm Books, tel (561) 482
5971, website www.newpara.com

Everything about the life of Father Pellegrino Ernetti suggests that this Italian Benedictine priest-scientist was a man of integrity and would not have created a hoax about his work on the chronovisor—a camera that allegedly could tune into the past or future and take pictures.

Venice-based Father Ernetti (1925–1994) was an authority on archaic music, a scholar in Greek and Latin, a sought-after exorcist, a confidant of the influential, and an object of questioning by the Vatican and NASA. His work on the so-called chronovisor stemmed from his time at Father Gemelli's electro-acoustical laboratory at the Catholic University in Milan from 1952. So writes Peter Krassa in his fascinating exposé of Father Ernetti's life and work, translated from German and now expanded with supporting documents—such as the translation of the lost Latin classic, Ennius's *Thyestes*, supposedly retrieved via the chronovisor.

Krassa draws on commentaries from associates of Ernetti, some of them priest-parapsychologists who were excited that he may have found a way to tap the elusive akashic records. Apparently the chronovisor (if it

ever existed) was dismantled, its capacity for misuse too great to justify continued experimentation. Fr Ernetti went very quiet in the last decade of his life (by choice or force?), but, in late 1993, he and two surviving scientists from the project presented their findings at the Vatican before four cardinals and a scientific committee. What transpired has not been divulged.

UFO FBI CONNECTION: The Secret History of the Government's Cover-up by Bruce Maccabee, PhD

Publisher: Llewellyn, USA, 2000
ISBN: 1-56718-493-6 (311pp tpb)
Price: AUD\$32.95; NZD\$46.95; £11.99;
NLGf38,90; USD\$14.95; CAD\$22.95
Sources: **Aust**—Banyan Tree, tel (08)
8363 4244; **NZ**—NEXUS Office, tel (09)
405 1963; **UK**—Airlift Book Co., tel 020
8804 0400; **Europe**—NEXUS Office, tel
+31 321 380558; **USA**—Llewellyn, tel
(651) 291 1970, www.llewellyn.com

Documents obtained by Dr Bruce Maccabee under the FOIA at last confirm that the FBI *did* take flying saucer sightings seriously enough to investigate them. Curiously, they also confirm that such FBI reports were filed under "Flying Discs: Security Matter – X"; in other words, the real-life "X-files"!

Bruce Maccabee, PhD, is an optical physicist who works for the US Navy and has been investigating UFO sightings for decades, accumulating many once-secret files from various military and intelligence organisations over the years. He is also well known on the UFO conference circuit.

For *UFO FBI Connection*, his second book, Dr Maccabee quotes highlights and

details from the approx. 1,600 pages of FBI documents, covering sightings in the 1947–1964 period, and interweaves them with historical context, his own commentary and supporting material from Air Force, Army CIC and CIA files. The result is a well-flowing account with fascinating case studies and asides (many from other UFO researchers). These documents not only disprove the FBI's public stance but speak volumes about the high-level official UFO cover-up, how it was instigated and how it's been maintained. They are also revealing for what they show of the complex interactions between the Air Force's intelligence apparatus, the FBI and other agencies over the nature of the UFO phenomenon.

Because these documents are now accessible on the Net (www.fbi.gov), only a couple of facsimiles are reproduced here—but this is no reason to bypass Maccabee's book for the background illumination it gives.





REVIEWS

BOOKS

ANCIENT CELTIC NEW ZEALAND

by Martin Doutré

Publisher: Dé Danann, NZ, 1999

ISBN: 0-473-05367-5 (288pp l/f hc)

Price: NZD\$74.95 (book or CD-ROM) +

\$5.95 p&h in NZ; airmail NZD\$15.00 to

Australia, NZD\$26.00 to USA/Canada &

East Asia; NZD\$29.00 to UK/Europe

Sources: **New Zealand**—Dé Danann

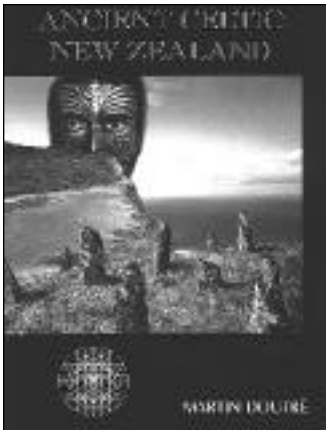
Publishers, PO Box 300111, Albany,

Auckland, e-mail doutré@ihug.co.nz,

website www.celticnz.co.nz; NEXUS

Office, tel (09) 405 1963

New Zealand-raised, US-born Martin Doutré has been an amateur archaeo-astronomer since the 1970s and has carried out extensive surveys of mysterious stone alignments, structures and artefacts that can be found all over New Zealand. He is among a growing band of "dissident" alternative thinkers who are seeking to overturn the prevailing orthodoxy concerning the peoples who preceded the Maori.



It's disturbing that discoveries such as the ones featured in Doutré's book, *Ancient Celtic New Zealand*, keep getting short shrift from academia and groups like the Department of Conservation who, Doutré believes, are taking the politically correct line. He points out that these anomalous sites and artefacts which pre-date Maori settlements are under the custodianship of the Maori, even though ancient remains of Indo-Europeans and even giants have been found, but he concedes that "many spiritually motivated Maori wish to acknowledge the more ancient ancestors", as do many New Zealanders of European descent.

One site, a large area on the tip of the North Island, incorporates a series of astronomical observatories and stone markers across the hills which, when plotted and calculated, describe the rising of Venus in the Hyades constellation in 2225 BC. The 36

hills of Auckland bear marks of sculpting for the purpose of surveying the passing firmament. Moreover, there are geometric similarities between these sites and the megalithic sites of Britain and Europe, even the Great Pyramid. Doutré explains these relationships at length, both mathematically and graphically. He also traces Maori symbols and motifs to Celtic antecedents.

A challenging book that will turn heads.

THE KEYS TO AVALON

by Steve Blake and Scott Lloyd

Publisher: Element Books, UK/USA, 2000

ISBN: 1-86204-735-9 (303pp hc);

1-86204-723-5 (tpb)

Price: AUD\$50.00, AUD\$30.00 (tpb);

NZD\$49.95 (tpb); £18.99; NLGƒ71,90;

USD\$29.95; CAD\$42.00

Sources: **Aust**—Penguin, tel (03) 9871

2400; **NZ**—NEXUS Office, tel (09) 405

1963; **UK**—Element, tel 01747 851339;

Eur—NEXUS Office, tel +31 321 380558;

USA—Element Books, tel (617) 248 9494

In *The Keys to Avalon*, Steve Blake and Scott Lloyd set the record straight on the legendary 6th-century King Arthur, his birthplace, the boundaries of his kingdom and the place of his burial. He was certainly an historical figure, but any association he had with Cornwall or Winchester or Glastonbury is fictitious. His kingdom was in North Wales and extended east to the Marches that make up Cheshire, Shropshire and Herefordshire counties today.

According to the authors, much of what's been passed down to us as Arthurian history is based on a mistranslation and partial fabrication first perpetrated by Geoffrey of Monmouth on behalf of his patron Robert, Earl of Gloucester. In 1136, he acquired a Welsh book which he translated into Latin as *The History of the Kings of Britain*; it chronicles, in part, the life of Arthur. But the "Britannia" reference was actually a name for Wales, and the "Isle" of Avalon that's described therein was not an island but a "realm"—in this case in North Wales.

Blake and Lloyd had to find sources which pre-dated this 12th century *Historia* if they were to uncover the truth, so they set out to track down long-forgotten early mediaeval Welsh texts. After painstaking research, they were able to account for names of historical figures and places within the landscape of 6th-century Wales. Here they support their findings with maps and photographs which pinpoint locations of everything from Arthur's court to the scenes of his battles and his final resting place.

Their fascinating narrative is rich in historical and cultural context and is refreshing for its asides which show how history is so readily manipulated by those who write it.

REVIEWS



VIDEOS

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

NEXUS CONFERENCE 2000

Producer: E & E Productions, Australia
Distributors (videos, PAL or NTSC, 90mins; audiotapes available on request):
Australia—AUD\$35.00 (video), \$17.00 (audio), inc. GST + p&h; NEXUS Magazine, tel (07) 5442 9280; **NZ**—NZD\$45.00 (video), NZD\$n/a (audio); NEXUS Office, tel (09) 405 1963; **UK**—£16.00 (video), £8.00 (audio); NEXUS Office, tel 01342 322854; **Europe**—prices n/a; NEXUS Office, tel 0321 380558; **USA/Canada**—USD\$35.00 (video, NTSC), USD\$15.00 (audio), including airmail, from: E & E Productions, PO Box 444, Oaklands Park, SA 5046, Australia, tel/fax 011 61 8 8298 8449

- **Bob Grace**

Bioenergetics: Our Body's Language

A highly popular presentation from the developer of the Magnagraph unit.

- **Bruce Moen**

Exploring More of the Afterlife

A 90-minute presentation covering aspects of our multidimensional existence.

- **Cathy O'Brien & Mark Phillips**

Mind Control

Authors of *Tranceformation of America*, Cathy O'Brien and Mark Phillips reveal all.

- **Don Maisch**

Mobile Phones & EMF Effects on Health

Excellent presentation on the health effects of mobile phones, EM radiation and more.

- **Gaylon Ross**

Conspiracy or Coincidence?

With the author of *Who's Who of the Elite*.

- **Internet Security Specialists**

Big Brother & the Internet

Informative presentation on cybersecurity.

- **Jennifer Lawson**

Global Weather Predictions

With the author of *Violent Weather Predictions: 2000-2001*.

- **John Anthony West**

Scientific Search for the Lost Civilisation

A 90-minute presentation covering the controversy surrounding the dating of the Sphinx in Egypt, and much more.

Exploring Symbolist Egypt

A 150-minute workshop presentation which explores the sacred art, architecture and spirituality of ancient Egypt (2 tapes).

- **Duncan Roads**

NEXUS in Perspective

Due to the last-minute non-appearance of speaker David Morehouse, I gave a spontaneous talk about myself and NEXUS.

PRODUCT

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

ELANRA Portable Therapeutic Ioniser

From Bionic Products Pty Ltd

Price: AUD\$395.00 (inc. GST);

USD\$395.00 (includes shipping to USA)

Distributor: **Australia**—Bionic Products Pty Ltd, PO Box 555, Robina, Qld 4226, tel 1800 352 672 (toll free in Aust) or (07) 5593 1122, fax (07) 5593 0022, website www.negativeions.com

This is actually the Elanra Mark III Portable Therapeutic Ioniser, and it is basically a smaller, improved version of the popular Mark II but designed for portability. As such, it has a battery life of four hours, and it can also be connected to the car's electrical system for use when driving.

Don't confuse this product with the old negative ion generators; these Elanra devices do work, and the manufacturer, Bionic Products, certainly goes to great lengths to provide substantiation for all health and technical claims. I noted with interest a glowing testimonial from the respected Dr Robert Beck, BSc, of blood electrification and "zapper" fame.

Reports from Japan, Hungary, the USA and the UK support findings that the build-up of positive ions inside vehicles can lead to loss of driver co-ordination, drowsiness, lack of concentration, etc. To test the effects of an Elanra Portable on driver fatigue, Bionic Products enlisted the help of a group of long-distance truck drivers. Each was supplied with an ioniser and asked to fill out a questionnaire. Not surprisingly, 87% reported an increased alertness while driving, 80% said they slept better and deeper during breaks (spent in the truck's cabin), and 93% of the drivers said their truck smelled cleaner and fresher.

I myself have used the previous version, the Mark II, continuously over the last three years and I can vouch for the beneficial effects. In fact, I take it with me whenever I have to spend time overnight in a hotel.

The portable unit is also designed with overseas travel in mind. It can run on mains electrical power anywhere in the world, with its own built-in power converter. It is very light and easy to carry and comes with 32 different settings, including one which automatically turns the ioniser on and off at five-minute intervals.

I have no hesitation in giving this product a glowing review. I also receive glowing reports from other users. It is the only product in this field about which I hear consistent positive feedback. If you spend lots of time driving, get one!



REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

HEAVEN'S DUST

by Ekova

Sony Music, France, 2000 (73mins)
Distributor: **USA**—Six Degrees Records, tel (415) 626 6334, website www.sixdegreesrecords.com

Ekova is another exciting combination of the world genre and new musical experimentation. Dierdre Dubois, lead vocalist and also cellist and guitarist, has an improvised language of her own, and with Iranian percussionist Arach Khalatbari and Algerian lute player Mehdi Haddab has created a musical blend with inspired, wordless lyrics. Dierdre developed the style while singing alone—"just for the beauty of the music". *Heaven's Dust* is a magical improvisation of "the genetic material of...song", as Dierdre describes the mix of African, Celtic and Arabic. A mysteriously attractive album.

WALKING ON

by the Ananda Shankar Experience and State of Bengal

Real World Records, 1999 (64mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—EMI/Virgin, tel (02) 9908 0777; **UK**—Real World, tel 01225 744464; **USA**—Real World, tel (414) 861 8350, website www.narada.com

In the late 1960s, the sound of sitar echoed through the pop music of San Francisco and the new wave of East-West inspiration. One of those pioneers was Ananda Shankar who, through his collaboration with Jimi Hendrix, became known across the USA. He returned to India in the 1970s and worked on uniting the two musics. In the 1990s his works resurfaced and, invited to Womad (UK), he and State of Bengal, a hip-hop Indian fusion band, produced amazing music. This is the recording of his last session as, sadly, he died in March 1999. Extraordinary, special, world sounds.

SPRING SEA - MUSIC OF DREAMS

by Riley Lee and Marshall McGuire

ABC Classics, Australia, 2000 (54mins)
Distributor: **Australia**—Universal Music Group, tel +61 2 9207 0500

Riley Lee is well known to Australian and international audiences for his exquisite shakuhachi flute playing. In his musical life he has collaborated with numerous instrumentalists, and here he teams up with Marshall McGuire on harp. Pieces include traditional Japanese compositions, a Benjamin Britten carol, Schubert's "Der Leiermann", and two from Australian com-

poser Anne Boyd. This sublime album is a unique connection of East and West.

TIDES

by Peter Carolan

Warner Chappell, Sydney, Australia, 1999 (35mins)

Distributor: **Australia**—Peter Carolan Music, tel +61 2 9985 8098, website www.softshore.com.au/carolan

Australia's legendary world music forerunner, Gondwanaland, launched Peter Carolan on his career. He later went on to play with the Australian band Sirocco as well as work on Isao Tomita's "Sound Cloud" performance and with German filmmaker Wim Wenders. His new solo keyboard album is an ambient dedication to the powers of the waters of the planet, inspired by the ebb and flow of the Hawkesbury River near Sydney. The music meanders around the river's estuary and mangroves in a beautiful, nourishing, healing force of sound that immerses the listener in the eternal rhythms of nature. A celebratory album.

¡MO' VIDA!

by various Latin artists

Putumayo, USA, 2000 (41mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **USA**—Putumayo World Music, tel 1888.788.8629, website www.putumayo.com

Latin music has made a huge comeback in the popular world music scene, and this album from Putumayo combines all that's new and exciting in today's styles. Selections of salsa, Cuban hip-hop, boogaloo and salsa-rap come from greats such as: Los Mocosos, a Latin groove band; King Changó, a Venezuelan rock-funk-Latin combo; Xiomara Fortuna, with her Afro-Dominican style; Orishas, with a Cuban rap beat; Ricardo Lemvo and Makina Loca with their African-Latin dance sound; and much more. Dancing hips party music!



Endnotes

1. For instance, Raymond Bonner's "War Crimes Panel Finds Croat Troops 'Cleansed' the Serbs", *New York Times*, March 21, 1999, is a revealing report that has been ignored in the relentless propaganda campaign against the Serbs.
2. John Ranz, in his paid advertisement in the *New York Times*, April 29, 1993.
3. "Correction: Report on Rape in Bosnia", *New York Times*, October 23, 1993.
4. David Owen, *Balkan Odyssey*, Harcourt, 1996, p. 262.
5. Barry Lituchy, "Media Deception and the Yugoslav Civil War", in Ramsey Clark et al., *NATO in the Balkans*, International Action Center, New York, p. 205; see also *New York Times*, August 7, 1993.
6. Both Noam Chomsky, in his comments on Pacifica Radio, April 7, 1999, and Alexander Cockburn, in *The Nation*, May 10, 1999, describe Milosevic as "monstrous" without offering any specifics.
7. Brooke Shelby Biggs, "Failure to Inform", *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, May 5, 1999, p. 25.
8. *Washington Post*, June 6, 1999.
9. See, for instance, Robert Burns's report, Associated Press, April 22, 1999.
10. For example, *New York Times*, June 15, 1998.
11. Charles Radin and Louise Palmer, "Experts Voice Doubts on Claims of Genocide: Little Evidence for NATO Assertions", *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 22, 1999.
12. *Newsday*, March 31, 1999.
13. *New York Times*, May 11, 1999.
14. Audrey Gillan, "What's the Story?", *London Review of Books*, May 27, 1999.
15. *Washington Post*, July 10, 1999.
16. See, for instance, Carlotta Gall, "Belgrade Sees Grave Site as Proof NATO Fails to Protect Serbs", *New York Times*, August 27, 1999.
17. Both the State Department's and Cohen's figures are reported in the *New York Times*, November 11, 1999.
18. *New York Times*, November 11, 1999.
19. Associated Press release, June 18, 1999. Reuters, on July 12, 1999, reported that NATO forces had catalogued more than 100 sites containing the bodies of massacred ethnic Albanians.
20. Stratfor.com, Global Intelligence Update, "Where Are Kosovo's Killing Fields?", Weekly Analysis, October 18, 1999, www.stratfor.com.
21. Reed Irvine and Cliff Kincaid, "Playing the Numbers Game", on website www.aim.org/mm/1999/08/03.htm.
22. *Sunday Times*, London, October 31, 1999.
23. *Los Angeles Times*, August 28, 1999.
24. *ibid.*
25. Stratfor.com, *ibid.*
26. Richard Gwyn, *Toronto Star*, November 3, 1999.
27. See, for instance, Carlotta Gall, "Belgrade Sees Grave Site as Proof NATO Fails to Protect Serbs", *ibid.* [endnote 16].
28. Richard Gwyn, *ibid.*
29. *New York Times*, November 11, 1999.
30. Intelligence reports from the German Foreign Office, January 12, 1999 and October 29, 1998, to the German Administrative Courts, translated by Eric Canepa, Brecht Forum, New York, April 20, 1999.
31. Teach-in, Leo Baeck Temple, Los Angeles, May 23, 1999.

About the Author:

Dr Michael Parenti received his PhD in political science from Yale University in 1962. He has taught at a number of colleges and universities in the USA and abroad. He regularly appears on television and radio talk shows to discuss current issues and ideas from his published works, such as democracy and economic power, political bias in US news media, ideology and history, communism and fascism, and race, gender and class.

Dr Parenti's articles have appeared in *Covert Action Quarterly*, *The Nation*, *Z Magazine*, *Dollars and Sense* and numerous other publications. He is the author of 14 books, including *History as Mystery* (1999), *America Besieged* (1998), *Dirty Truths* (1996) and *Against Empire* (1995) (all published by City Lights Books). This article is excerpted from Dr Parenti's forthcoming book, *To Kill a Nation: The Attack on Yugoslavia*, to be published by Verso in October 2000. To view other articles by Dr Parenti, visit his website at www.michaelparenti.org/.

Editor's Note:

Copies of Dr Parenti's books are available from People's Video, PO Box 99514, Seattle, WA 98199, USA, tel 800 823 4507 (toll free in North America), fax +1 (206) 782 6253, e-mail peoplesvideo@vida.com.

Holy Smoke and Mirrors: The Vatican Conspiracy

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to note that Prince Bernhard, in addition to his Bilderberg role and as head of the Dutch Johannite Order, was also an honorary member of Himmler's SS and worked in NW7, the global intelligence arm of I.G. Farben which acted in the interests of the Nazi cause. The activities of NW7 in Latin America before, during and after World War II are deeply interwoven in this story.

In facilitating and aligning itself with many of the foregoing activities, the Vatican aimed to help eradicate a communist ideology that despised Christianity. Opus Dei and a host of other Catholic-cum-fascist secret groups engaged in a litany of murder, money laundering, drug peddling, arms trafficking, concealment of WWII loot, embezzlement, manipulation of financial markets and many other consummate illegalities. The purpose of all these activities was, arguably, to allow the Vatican to remain the spiritual bulwark of the Christian West.

But if such business is the business of a Church preaching of a God in Heaven, then Caesar on Earth had better watch out. A new landlord has fallen into town.

Acknowledgements

In preparing this essay, I drew upon an indispensable group of published/unpublished work and sources, as follows:

- The full account of the unique story of Al Carone, by Mike Ruppert (available to order online at www.copvca.com).
- *Trading With The Enemy*, by Charles Higham (St Edmundsbury Press, Suffolk, UK, 1983).
- *Their Kingdom Come*, by Robert Hutchison (St Martin's Press, New York, 1997).
- *Web of Gold*, by Guy Patton and Robin Mackness (Sidgwick & Jackson, London, 2000).
- *Ratlines*, by Mark Aarons and John Loftus (Mandarin, London, 1991).
- *The Bormann Brotherhood*, by William Stevenson (Arthur Baker, London, 1973).
- Unpublished manuscript by Peter Dale Scott on Barbie, Dulles and Operation *Sunrise*. It details how the OSS-SS preserved each other while serving their true masters: transnational corporations.
- *The Last Circle*, an unpublished manuscript by Carol Marshall, which investigates the so-called "Octopus".
- My thanks also go to Catherine Austin Fitts (www.solari.com) for her invaluable help.

— David G. Guyatt

About the Author:

Following a 28-year career as a professional international banker based in the City of London, David Guyatt now pursues a career researching, writing and producing material for TV documentaries, films and magazines. His feature articles have appeared in diverse publications including *BusinessAge*, *NEXUS*, *Fortean Times*, *The X Factor* and *Lobster*.

In addition to his commercial writing, David has prepared background papers on anti-personnel electromagnetic weapons for the International Committee on the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as for Scientists for Global Responsibility. He has also written for the World Development Movement on his "insider" knowledge of international weapons financing.

David was engaged as an expert consultant for the two-part *World in Action* TV documentary, broadcast in the UK in April 1997, that exposed Britain's weapons trail to Indonesia; and he assisted Swiss TV in a documentary on non-lethal weapons, also broadcast in early 1997. At present, he is pursuing an in-depth investigation into the real secrets surrounding the enigma of Nazi gold and WWII treasure looted by both German and Japanese "plunder teams". It will also unravel some of the more enduring secrets of the gold market.

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Celsius. This is five times the previous hottest temperature for a contained gas and is twice the minimum heat needed for fusion, but it was held only for one fifty-millionth of a second instead of the one full second which would be required.

It is curious to note here that Dr Bernard Eastlund is the patent holder of another unusual device—one that is associated with the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP), based at Gakona, Alaska. HAARP is allegedly linked to weather manipulation—one of the ways in which Collens thinks the ancients waged warfare.

As far as holes in the ozone layer and weather manipulation go, Collens says:

Soviet scientists have discussed and proposed at the United Nations a ban on developing new warfare ideas such as creating holes or "windows" in the ozone layer to bombard specific areas of the Earth with increased natural ultra-violet radiation, which would kill all life-forms and turn the land into barren desert.

Other ideas discussed at the meeting were the use of "infrasound" to demolish ships by creating acoustic fields on the sea, and hurling a huge chunk of rock into the sea with a cheap atomic device. The resultant tidal wave could demolish the coastal fringe of a country. Other tidal waves could be created by detonating nuclear devices at the frozen poles. Controlled floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and droughts directed towards specific targets and cities are other possibilities.

Finally, although not a new method of warfare, incendiary weapons are now being developed to the point where "chemical fireballs" will be produced which radiated thermal energy similar to that of an atomic bomb.

Vitrified Ruins in California's Death Valley: Evidence of Atomic War?

In *Secrets of the Lost Races*,¹⁶ Rene Noorbergen discusses the evidence for a cataclysmic war in the remote past that included the use of airships and weapons that vitrified stone cities.

The most numerous vitrified remains in the New World are located in the

western United States. In 1850 the American explorer Captain Ives William Walker was the first to view some of these ruins, situated in Death Valley. He discovered a city about a mile long, with the lines of the streets and the positions of the buildings still visible. At the center he found a huge rock, between 20 to 30 feet high, with the remains of an enormous structure atop it. The southern side of both the rock and the building was melted and vitrified. Walker assumed that a volcano had been responsible for this phenomenon, but there is no volcano in the area. In addition, tectonic heat could not have caused such a liquefaction of the rock surface.

An associate of Captain Walker who followed up his initial exploration commented: "The whole region between the rivers Gila and San Juan is covered with remains. The ruins of cities are to be found there which must be most extensive, and they are burnt out and vitrified in part, full of fused stones and craters caused by fires which were hot

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The Evidence for Ancient Atomic Warfare

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enough to liquefy rock or metal. There are paving stones and houses torn with monstrous cracks... [as though they had] been attacked by a giant's fire-plough."

These vitrified ruins in Death Valley sound fascinating—but do they really exist? There certainly is evidence of ancient civilisations in the area. In Titus Canyon, petroglyphs and inscriptions have been scratched into the walls by unknown prehistoric hands. Some experts think the graffiti might have been made by people who lived here long before the Indians we know of, because extant Indians know nothing of the glyphs and, indeed, regard them with superstitious awe.

Says Jim Brandon in *Weird America*:¹⁷ *Piute legends tell of a city beneath Death Valley that they call Shin-au-av. Tom Wilson, an Indian guide in the 1920s, claimed that his grandfather had rediscovered the place by wandering into a miles-long labyrinth of caves beneath the valley floor.*

Eventually the Indian came to an underworld city where the people spoke

an incomprehensible language and wore clothing made of leather.

Wilson told this story after a prospector named White claimed he had fallen through the floor of an abandoned mine at Wingate Pass and into an unknown tunnel. White followed this into a series of rooms, where he found hundreds of leather-clad humanoid mummies. Gold bars were stacked like bricks and piled in bins.

White claimed he had explored the caverns on three occasions. On one, his wife accompanied him; and on another, his partner, Fred Thomason. However, none of them [was] able to relocate the opening to the cavern when they tried to take a group of archaeologists on a tour of the place.

To be continued next issue...

Endnotes

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About the Author:

David Hatcher Childress is an explorer, publisher and author of more than 15 books on lost civilisations and science, as well as on free energy, anti-gravity and UFOs. He is a regular speaker on the conference circuit and a sought-after guest on US radio talk shows and TV specials. His new book, *Technology of the Gods*, is reviewed in this issue.